

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- For today's update, I want to draw your attention to three interesting news stories, all of which have dominated the headlines as of late.
- At first glance, they all seem to be different news events, however upon further examination, one can begin to see a common thread.
- In other words, these news stories have an; "intersect" in that they seemingly prepare the world for that which is prepared for the world.

- First, it's the Islamic mosque at ground zero, then, Glenn Beck's rally on 8/28, and the pastor who declared; "burn a Koran day" on 9/11.
- The proposed ground zero mosque has presented a straw man argument that has worked perfectly with the ignorant politically correct.
- It's for this very reason that Islam will likely win this argument and ground zero will see this mosque built in the not too distant future.

- The second big news story which went viral, as they say, was the Florida pastor who declared, "9-11 International Burn a Koran Day."
- Needless to say this creates a problem, as Muslim's are sort of intolerant when it comes to anyone speaking against Islam or the Koran.
- Be that as it may, it aroused the concern of not only General Petraes, but the President of the United States himself, Barack Obama.

On Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, Fred & Carol Holck's son-in-law, Jim Mendoza, who is a brother in Christ and a friend of mine, interviewed me for the Hawaii News Now evening broadcast regarding this pastor's Koran burning party, and the risks to both Christians and Americans, especially the military in Islamic countries if this pastor was to carry this out. Now, fortunately, he did cancel the event, but not before exposing some very interesting dynamics as it relates to the lie that Islam is a "peace loving religion."

[http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/Global/category.asp?C=6743&nav=menu55\\_6](http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/Global/category.asp?C=6743&nav=menu55_6)

On Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, one blogger posted what I thought was a most insightful commentary titled; **"The risks involved in burning the Koran are mainly the fault of Islam"** – "One of the biggest concerns that people have regarding Terry Jones's intention to burn some Korans ... is that it will endanger Christians and Americans in Islamic countries. Both the president and General Petraeus have warned that this could risk the lives of our soldiers. Obama said, I just want [Jones] to understand that this stunt that he is talking about pulling could greatly endanger our young men and women who are in uniform. So are Obama and Petraeus prejudiced, because it sounds to me like they're simply assuming that Muslims are gonna get violent about this? Jones told Nightline, "[Islam] is a very dangerous religion." It seems our leadership and many Americans completely agree. What happened to Islam being a religion of peace? If what our leaders are saying is true, then the main problem isn't some idiotic Floridian, it's a worldwide religion that kills people because of an idiot. Every religion includes offensive fringe freaks. Only one religion that I'm aware of makes the whole world scared for its safety when it gets insulted by one of these freaks who happens to have made it on the news. How can we condemn Jones's actions without also condemning the religion that makes his actions so dangerous? ... the fact that [Jones] is causing legitimate worry about the safety of our soldiers, missionaries, expatriates, etc., is not his fault. It's Islam's. Or... Islam is a religion of peace and Obama, along with America at large, is unfairly concerned. In that case, there's nothing to worry about."

<http://twentytwowords.com/2010/09/09/the-risks-involved-in-burning-the-koran-are-mainly-the-fault-of-islam/>

- If Islam is a religion of peace then why did the Muslim Cleric threaten that we'd be attacked if the mosque wasn't built at ground zero?
- Again, their straw man argument about burning the Muslim's Koran or building a Muslim Mosque, is prevailing because of ignorance.

- The third big news story was the 8/28 rally held by Glenn Beck which some estimate had an attendance of over half a million people.
- It's interesting to note that sharing the stage at this event were religious leaders from all faiths together with Beck, who is a Mormon.
- This would explain the purpose of the event, which was to restore America's honor and call religions together for a "spiritual revival."

On Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, Cal Thomas wrote a fascinating article called "Genuine Revival" - "In calling for a spiritual revival in America ... talk show host Glenn Beck reached back into history and touched on a familiar theme. What would a genuine revival look like and how did those that have transformed America several times in the past get started? Earlier revivals were not created from the mobilization of large crowds. They occurred when people did something infrequently observed in modern times: humbled themselves. Depending on how you count them there have been at least three "great awakenings" in American history. All of them—along with revivals in other countries—had one thing in common. They all began with what the late revival historian J. Edwin Orr called "a concert of prayer." ... Besides prayer, another characteristic of the 1857 revival and all other revivals was genuine repentance and a confession of personal guilt before a holy God. Anyone familiar with the Old and New Testaments knows that humbling one's self before God gets His attention faster than any earthly pursuit or agenda. Modern evangelicals, so preoccupied with who is in the White House or which party controls Congress, might benefit from studying the results of the revivals. As Orr tells it, not only did the 1857 revival have a profound social impact on America, it also dramatically affected every society it reached. Following the revival of 1905, crime virtually disappeared in London. The police had little to do, so they formed quartets and sang at the revival meetings. A Chicago shoe salesman named Dwight L. Moody wanted to teach Sunday school at a local church, but was told by its superintendent that the church already had 16 teachers too many. The superintendent instructed Moody to "get some boys off the street" and "take them to the country. . . . They will be your class." That was the beginning of a ministry and missionary work that lasted 40 years. Revivals don't ratify the earthly aspirations of humanity, including selfish political agendas. They are about glorifying God. Too many modern Christians have it backward. In a real revival the Lincoln Memorial event would have been a result, not an attempt to cause a revival. People would have assembled who had already repented in private. They would not have bemoaned a decline in American "morality," but instead have fallen on their knees (or faces) and cried out in genuine repentance and humility. ... What passes for American Christianity today is increasingly counterfeit. It appears more focused on a transient earthly kingdom, rather than a heavenly eternal kingdom. That is idolatry and violates the First Commandment: "Thou shall have no other gods before me." When Christians obey that Commandment, and humble themselves, only then might revival follow.

<http://online.worldmag.com/2010/09/07/genuine-revival/>

- If a genuine revival were to follow a true humbling of ourselves then a pastor in Florida wouldn't be burning Korans, Muslim's would.
- Actually, there was a book burning that took place after a repentance and revival and it's found in the book of Acts the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Acts 19:11-20** 11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. 13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15[One day] the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. 17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. 18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. **19 A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.** 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. NIV

- This brings me to what I believe is the common denominator and the "prophetic connection" with these "big three" recent news stories.
- Everything that's happening is setting the stage for the false church as a one world religion to come under the control of the Anti-Christ.

**Revelation 17:3-6** 3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. 5 This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. NIV

"It seems that there will be a confederacy between this false church system and the Antichrist, in the last days, which helps to put him into power. It is possible that this church system will be the false prophet that leads the world to worship the beast."

"What the World is Coming to," Pastor Chuck Smith, Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa

## Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms, Part 8 - Acts 27:39-44 – September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- This is part eight of a series that I've titled; "Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms," and so far, we've looked at 14 of these survival secrets.
- Today, we'll pick it up in verse 39 and finish chapter 27 as we now learn the 15<sup>th</sup> secret to surviving life's storms, and it's simply; "belief."

### 15. Belief (Verses 39-44)

39 When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. 40 Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. 41 But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf. 42 The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. 43 But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. 44 The rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land in safety

-v39-41 Though they don't recognize the bay, they run the ship aground at a sandy beach hoping to keep it together, but it's to no avail.

-v42-43 They had planned to kill the prisoners to prevent them from escaping, but the Centurion stops them in order to spare Paul's life.

-v44 Those who could swim went first, the rest got there on pieces of the ship, and we're told that everyone of them reached land safely.

"Only the rarest conjunction of favorable circumstances could have brought about such a fortunate ending to their apparently hopeless situation . . . all these circumstances are united in St. Paul's Bay."

Ramsay, cited by F.F. Bruce

"If they missed Malta, there would have been nothing for it but to hold on for 200 miles until they struck the Tunisian coast, and no one could have expected the ship to survive that long."

F.F. Bruce

- Should this come as any surprise? Isn't this exactly what God promised that He would do? Oh, if only they would have just believed!

- I'm not the brightest bulb in the box, but when they were in the midst of this storm, God said that not one of them would perish.

- In other words, everything that God said would happen did happen, and everything that God said would not happen, did not happen.

"Thus was the promise of God kept to the letter; the peril was great, but all were saved from death. God never did forfeit His Word, and He never will. It is nothing more than right that we should, without wavering, believe His promises; and if we do so, our lives will be free from care, and we shall have daily cause for rejoicing. This day may unbelief be cast out, and may childlike confidence rule our spirits."

Charles Spurgeon

- For those of you who have been here on Thursday nights, you're noticing an intersect here between the book of Acts and Numbers.

- In Numbers chapter 14, we learned about the unspeakable consequences of unbelief in that it costs the Israelites the Promised Land.

- We have recorded a chilling and sobering verse where God responds to the Israelites unwillingness to just believe.

**Numbers 14:11** Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? NKJV

- The Lord asks Moses two rhetorical questions both of which are related to the Israelites not believing in and thus rejecting the Lord.

- At the core of both their unbelief and rejection, you will find that they are in effect calling God a liar, which is why they don't believe Him.

- In other words, they don't truly believe God which is why they reject God, and actually make a lying accusation against God.

**Hebrews 3:12-19** 12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. 14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. 15 As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." 16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? 17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? 18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. NIV

**Mark 9:15-24** 15 As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. 16 "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked. 17 A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. 18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." 19 "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." 20 So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. 21 Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. 22 "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." 23 "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." 24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" NIV

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

1. ----- (Verses 1- )

28:1 Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. 2 The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. 3 Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. 4 When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." 5 But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. 6 The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead, but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

7 There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably. 8 His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. 9 When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. 10 They honored us in many ways and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

11 After three months we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered in the island. It was an Alexandrian ship with the figurehead of the twin gods Castor and Pollux. 12 We put in at Syracuse and stayed there three days. 13 From there we set sail and arrived at Rhegium. The next day the south wind came up, and on the following day we reached Puteoli. 14 There we found some brothers who invited us to spend a week with them. And so we came to Rome. 15 The brothers there had heard that we were coming, and they traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet us. At the sight of these men Paul thanked God and was encouraged. 16 When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him.

17 Three days later he called together the leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, Paul said to them: "My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. 18 They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. 19 But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar-not that I had any charge to bring against my own people. 20 For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain."

21 They replied, "We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of the brothers who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. 22 But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect."

23 They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. 24 Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. 25 They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet:

26 "Go to this people and say,  
"You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."

27 For this people's heart has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts  
and turn, and I would heal them.'

28 "Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!"

30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Puns for Educated Minds (and those with cabin fever).

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.  
He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum  
Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking in to it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
15. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned  
veteran.
17. A backward poet writes inverse.
18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count  
that votes.
19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine .

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."
- For today's update, I would like to talk about the historic peace talks that took place at the White House on Thursday of this past week.

### Arutz Sheva – Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 Barak: Israel May Divide Jerusalem, Internationalize Holy Basin

Defense Minister Ehud Barak says it is likely that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will **agree to divide Jerusalem** with the Palestinian Authority. ... **As for the "Jerusalem problem,"** Barak told the newspaper that the western side of the city plus "12 Jewish neighborhoods that are home to 200,000 residents will be ours." The neighborhoods in which nearly 250,000 Arabs are living "will be theirs." In addition, Barak envisions a "special regime" with "agreed-upon arrangements" to administer the Old City, the Mount of Olives and the City of David. The concept is similar to one raised in the past by the administration of former U.S. President Bill Clinton, who recommended the area, which he referred to as the "Holy Basin," be internationalized under a "special regime." Prior to his re-election as Israel's prime minister nearly two years ago, Binyamin Netanyahu **warned a gathering** at the Jerusalem Conference in January 2009 that leftist politicians would try to internationalize the holy sites in Jerusalem – and he vowed to fight the move. "Some politicians are trying to blur the importance of the Temple Mount to the Jewish People by referring to it as the 'Holy Basin'," he told the crowd at the time. "We, as Jews, know who built the Temple Mount." Netanyahu promised the packed hall, "We have demonstrated in the past, and will continue to demonstrate our commitment to a complete, undivided Jerusalem... Everyone knows what will happen if we were to leave those areas and divide Jerusalem. Someone will enter – and that someone will be Hamas."

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/139441>

**Zechariah 12:2,3 6 2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about,** when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. **3 And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.** ... **6 In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.** KJV

**Arutz Sheva – Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 - Netanyahu and Abbas in Closed-Door Meeting as Direct Talks Begin -**



Direct talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) began Thursday morning in Washington. Some news agencies labeled the ceremony 'historic' but many observers expect the talks to collapse soon after they begin. ... Abbas made clear he expected negotiations to begin where they had left off in the past, explaining that **"we're not starting from scratch because we had many rounds of negotiation between the PLO and the Israeli government."**

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/139476>

**Daniel 9:27** **He will confirm a covenant** with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him." NIV

**Luke 21:28** When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." NIV

**Matthew 24:44** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. NKJV

**John 14:29** "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. NKJV

By Bill Salus

[ProphecyDepot.com](http://ProphecyDepot.com)

***Thursday, September 2, 2010***

### **Smoking the Mideast Peace Pipe in Washington**

As Hurricane Earl barrels down on the East Coast reminding Americans God's foreign policy of [Genesis 12:3](#) is still effectually intact, ... Several Mideast leaders have converged upon Washington to discuss the prospects of "Direct Talks" for peace. President Obama, ...wants a signed [peace-pact](#) between Israel and the Palestinians. Although this peace-pact concept hints of the biblical false covenant prophesied in [Daniel 9:27](#), it presents different time tables that dismiss it from having prophetic implications. However, this round of peace talks may prove to be prophetically critical.

Regarding Israel's primary enemies - Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Hezbollah, and Hamas - these nations and/or terrorist turned political organizations are involved in the end time wars of Ezekiel 38 & 39, [Isaiah 17:1](#), and Psalm 83. Iran comes against Israel in Ezekiel 38, Syria is involved in [Isaiah 17:1](#), and Syria, Lebanon, Hezbollah, and Hamas confederate against Israel in



Psalm 83. At some point soon these wars will occur nullifying any present peace proposals attempting to further the Mideast peace process along.

[http://www.bible-prophecy-today.com/2010/09/smoking-mideast-peace-pipe-in.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+BibleProphecyToday+%28Bible+Prophecy+Today%29](http://www.bible-prophecy-today.com/2010/09/smoking-mideast-peace-pipe-in.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+BibleProphecyToday+%28Bible+Prophecy+Today%29)

**srael's Interior Minister Eli Yishai said:** "The shootings only prove that peace talks will lead to nowhere, because Hamas is the ruler on the ground, and won't let the Palestinian Authority reach an agreement."... "Let's say [Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas] makes an agreement with us, where we make painful sacrifices. Hamas and all the other terror organizations will start attacking again - so what did we do? We must stand up for our principles and never give up on them: Stop terror, recognize Israel as a Jewish state, stop provoking violence, and start negotiations without conditions."

**God says:** *"I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem a unmovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. ... On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume right and left all the surrounding peoples, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place."* [Zachariah 12:2-3, 6].

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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- For today's update, we'll connect the dots of Bible Prophecy with recent news headlines as we have been doing in previous weeks.
- So, what we'll do is first look at the news headline, then, we'll connect it to the Bible prophecy and then the reference in scripture.

NEWS HEADLINE	BIBLE PROPHECY	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
<a href="#">Iran to Russia: Let's establish a nuclear consortium</a>	The Russian-Iranian led nuclear attack against Israel	Ezekiel 38-39
<a href="#">SPECIAL COVERAGE: Pakistan floods, worst in living memory</a>	There will be an increase of famines and pestilences	Matthew 24:7-8
<a href="#">Regulators shut down big Chicago bank, 7 others</a>	The forcing of a cashless one world economy	Revelation 13:16-17
<a href="#">US 'ready' to unveil Middle East peace plan</a>	They say; peace & security, then sudden destruction	1 Thessalonians 5:3
<a href="#">Russia fueling launch of Iran's first nuclear plant and the rumors of war</a>	There will be wars and rumors of wars	Matthew 24:6

- Now, I am keenly aware that there are those who would argue that we've always had wars, floods, famines, and economic disasters.
- They contend that everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation, and that we're not any different than other generation.

**2 Peter 3:3-13** 3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. NIV

**Romans 13:11-12** 11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because

our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. NIV

**2 Timothy 4:8** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. NIV

## Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms, Part 7 - Acts 27:31-38 – August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- This is part seven of a series that I've entitled; "Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms," as we learn how Paul survives this perilous storm.
- The beloved Apostle is sort of rising from the pages of scripture and revealing to us the secrets to surviving the storms and trials of life.
- Here-to-for in verses 1-30, we've looked at 12 of these survival secrets, and today will pick it up with our 13<sup>th</sup> one beginning in verse 31.

### 13. Discernment (Verses 31-32)

31 Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." 32 So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away.

-v31 Paul says to the centurion and the soldiers that unless they stay in the ship, they cannot have any hope of being saved.

-v32 Luke tells us that in response to Paul's warning, the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away.

"...Paul saw through their cowardly purpose and prevented it. It is a shameful thing to leave others to perish while we can be of any service to them."

Charles Spurgeon

- I find it interesting that Paul was the only one who, like Spurgeon says; "saw through them," and was on to them and their evil scheme.
- It's for this reason that I believe the Holy Spirit had Luke record this detail. It is so that we will learn - how important it is to discern.
- When we're in a trial, it is so vital that we exercise discernment and discern so we know whether or not it's spiritual warfare. (Prov 3:21-26)

### 14. Nourishment (Verses 33-38)

33 Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food-you haven't eaten anything. 34 Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." 35 After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. 36 They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. 37 Altogether there were 276 of us on board. 38 When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

-v33 Paul encourages them to eat because for 14 days they've been seasick and on edge hanging on for their lives, and haven't eaten.

-v34 He urges them to eat food for nourishment or they won't survive, then he assures them no one will lose a single hair from his head.

-v35 After saying this, he takes some bread and gives thanks to God in front of all of them, then broke it and they all began to eat it.

-v36-38 They're all encouraged, all 276 of them, and they eat as much as they want then lighten the ship throwing the grain overboard.

- This is interesting because it's like Paul is saying; "come on guys, we've been through a lot and we all need to eat some 'comfort-food.'"

"Picture this one brave man, in the dim twilight, standing in the midst of nearly three hundred haggard faces, speaking so calmly and giving them such sound advice. Faith ennobles believers, and makes them comforters of others. Such calm devotion spreads courage on all sides. If Paul, even in a storm, gave thanks, what shall be said of those persons who rush upon their meals like swine, and never thank the Lord who provides for them?"

Charles Spurgeon

- Perhaps you'll be so kind as to indulge me for just a moment, as I've sensed from the Lord that this survival secret is underestimated.

- Here's what I'm thinking: notice in verse 34, Paul tells them that if they don't eat and nourish their bodies they will not survive the storm.  
- In other words, our survival depends on our eating good for nourishment physically, and sleeping good, for discernment mentally.

- Now, let me hasten to say, that I am in no way, speaking about this - as one who is living this, for to do so would render me a hypocrite.  
- Be that as it may, I believe that the detail we have recorded here in the text before us, serves as a lesson to us if we hope to survive.  
- Don't underestimate the importance of physical and mental health, especially when under unspeakable stress while in the storms of life.

- Elijah is an example of this when he's physically fatigued, emotionally exhausted and doubtless, very sleep deprived and unhealthy.  
- He's so unhealthy, in 1 Kings 19:5-8 the Lord has to just let him eat and sleep so he will have enough strength to survive what's ahead.  
- That's essentially what Paul's says when he tells them they need nourishment to survive. Absent that they'll give way to total despair.

"Does someone hold the view that as long as you are a Christian it does not matter what the condition of your body is? Well, you will soon be disillusioned if you believe that. Physical conditions play their part in all this. ...temperament seems to some degree to be controlled by physical conditions and there are certain people who constitutionally, almost in a physical sense, are prone to this condition. In other words, there are certain physical ailments which tend to promote depression. ...take that great preacher who preached in London for nearly forty years ... - Charles Haddon Spurgeon - one of the truly great preachers of all time. That great man was subject to spiritual depression, and the main explanation in his case was undoubtedly the fact that he suffered from a gouty condition which finally killed him. He had to face this problem of spiritual depression often in a most acute form. ...there are many, I find, who come to talk to me about these matters, in whose case it seems quite clear to them that the cause of the trouble is mainly physical. Into this group, speaking generally, you can put tiredness, overstrain, and any form of illness. You cannot isolate the spiritual from the physical for we are body, mind and spirit. The greatest and the best Christians when they are physically weak are more prone to an attack of spiritual depression than at any other time and there are great illustrations of this in the Scriptures. You may be in this condition simply because you are working too hard physically. You can be tired in the work and not tired of the work. It is possible that a man has been over-working- I do not care in what realm, whether natural or spiritual-and has been over-taxing his energy and his physical resources. If you go on working too hard or under strain you are bound to suffer. And of course if that is the cause of the trouble, the remedy you need is medical treatment. There is a striking example of this in the Old Testament. ...when Elijah had that attack of spiritual depression after his heroic effort on Mount Carmel, he sat down under a juniper tree and felt sorry for himself. But the real thing he needed was sleep and food; and God gave him both! He gave him food and rest before He gave him spiritual help."

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones "Spiritual Depression, It's Causes and its Cure" pp. 18, 19, 196

**Psalm 42:11** Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God. KJV

### **13. Discernment (Verses 31-32)**

1. Paul says to the centurion and the soldiers that unless they stay in the ship, they cannot have any hope of being saved.
2. Then, Luke tells us that in response to Paul's warning, the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away.
3. This is interesting because it seems to indicate that Paul was the only one who was on to them and figured out what their scheme was.
4. I believe the Holy Spirit had Luke record this detail for us to learn how important it is to discern the spirits so we know whether or not it's spiritual warfare.

### **14. Comfort (Verses 33-38)**

1. Paul encourages them to eat because for 14 days they've been seasick and on edge hanging on for their lives, and haven't eaten.
2. He then urges them to eat food in order to survive and reassures them that not one of them will lose a single hair from his head.
3. After saying this, he takes some bread and gives thanks to God in front of all of them, then broke it and they all began to eat it.
4. They're all encouraged, all 276 of them, and they eat as much as they want then lighten the ship even more by throwing the grain overboard.
5. This is interesting because it's like Paul is saying; "come on guys, we've been through a lot and we all need to eat some 'comfort-food.' (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

### **15. Belief (Verses 39-44)**

1. Though they don't recognize the bay, they run the ship aground at a sandy beach hoping to keep it together, but it's to no avail.
2. They had planed kill the prisoners to prevent them from escaping, but the Centurion stops them because he wants to spare Paul.
3. Those who could swim went first, the rest got there on the boards from the ship, and we're told that everyone of them reached land safely.
4. Should this come as any surprise? Isn't this exactly what God promised that He would do? Oh, if only they would have just believed the Word of the Lord through Paul!

### Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- For today's update, I would like to draw your attention to a prophecy that is familiar to most of you, as we've been watching it closely.
- It's found in the Old Testament book of Ezekiel the 38<sup>th</sup> chapter, where we find a very detailed prophecy of a nuclear attack on Israel.
- What's so fascinating about this Battle of Magog prophecy as it's called is that we are even now clearly seeing it begin to come to pass.

- All the pieces of the prophetic puzzle are being put in place as it relates to Russia, Iran, and even now Turkey, according to Ezekiel 38.
- Now, if you've been coming to this church for any length of period of time, you're keenly aware of all the components to this prophecy.
- I would suggest to you that we are on the cusp of what could be the final fulfillment of this prophecy recorded almost 2,500 years ago.

**AS RUSSIAN-IRANIAN-TURKISH THREAT GROWS, ISRAEL DISCOVERS 1.5 BILLION BARRELS OF OIL: Echoes of Bible prophecy**, By Joel C. Rosenberg - (Washington, D.C., August 18, 2010) -- Here's the latest from the epicenter:

- Deuteronomy says "oil" and "hidden treasures" will be found in Israel in the last days of history. The prophecies of Ezekiel 38 & 39 indicate Israel will be significantly prosperous in the last days, before a Russian-Iranian-Turkish alliance forms against her and seeks to destroy her.
- Today's headline from Ynet News: "1.5 BILLION BARRELS OF OIL DISCOVERED NEAR ROSH HA'AYIN."
- Another Ynet headline today: "ISRAEL'S ECONOMY CHARGES AHEAD; 4.7% growth in Q2: Israel's economic growth

hits 4.7% in second quarter of 2010, leaving behind Euro bloc at 4.1%." Key point: Israel now has the fastest growing economy in the West.

- On Saturday, Russia begins fueling Iran's Bushehr nuclear reactor. ...

...In recent years — and indeed, in recent months — we seem to be seeing this Russian-Iranian-Turkish alliance growing. We also see Israel's economy growing significantly and remarkable new discoveries of oil and gas.

- So what do we now do with this breaking news? That's the good news, the gospel of Jesus Christ and our redemption is drawing nigh!

**Luke 21:28** When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." NIV

## Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms, Part 6 - Acts 27:22-30 – August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

- This is part six of a series titled; "Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms," as we study how Paul was able to get through all he went through.
- Needless to say, Paul is in the midst of a perilous storm that, unlike the Apostle, we know the ending, and how Paul is able to survive.
- Woven into the fabric of this detailed account are secrets the Holy Spirit reveals to us and for us in how we can survive life's storms.

- In verse 21, Luke tells us of their brokenness in how they were losing everything, and even fearing that they would lose their lives,
- This revealed our 10<sup>th</sup> secret, which is the need for brokenness in our life, in order that we might survive the storms that come in our life.
- Before we look at number 11, I want to take a moment to share with you a quote as it relates to what it means to be truly broken to Him.

It's from Roy Hession in his book; "When I Saw Him." In it he quotes an article entitled; "This Is Brokenness," by John Collinson, where he writes; "Sometimes it is asked what we mean by brokenness. Brokenness is not easy to define but can be clearly seen in the reactions of Jesus, especially as He approached the cross and in His crucifixion. I think it can be applied personally in this way:

WHEN to do the will of God means that even my Christian brethren will not understand, and I remember that "Neither did His brethren believe in Him" [John 7:5], and I bow my head to obey and accept the misunderstanding, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

WHEN I am misrepresented or deliberately misinterpreted, and I remember that Jesus was falsely accused but He "held His peace," [Matthew 26:63] and I bow my head to accept the accusation without trying to justify myself, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

WHEN another is preferred before me and I am deliberately passed over, and I remember that they cried, "Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas" [Luke 23:18], and I bow my head and accept rejection, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

WHEN my plans are brushed aside and I see the work of years brought to ruins by ambitions of others and I remember that Jesus allowed them to lead Him away to crucify Him [Matthew 27:31] and He accepted that place of failure, and I bow my head and accept the injustice without bitterness, THIS IS BROKENNESS.



WHEN in order to be right with my God it is necessary to take the humbling path of confession and restitution, and I remember that Jesus "made Himself of no reputation" and "humbled Himself unto death, even the death of the cross" [Philippians 2:8], and I bow my head and am ready to accept the shame of exposure, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

WHEN others take unfair advantage of my being a Christian and, treat my belongings as public property, and I remember "they stripped Him... and parted His garments, casting lots" [Matthew 27:28,35], and I bow my head and accept "joyfully the spoiling of my goods" for His sake,

WHEN one acts towards me in an unforgivable way, and I remember that when He was crucified Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" [Luke 23:34], and I bow my head and accept any behavior towards me as permitted by my loving Father, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

WHEN people expect the impossible of me and more than time or human strength can give, and I remember that Jesus said, "This is My body which is given for you..." [Luke 22:19], and I repent of my self-indulgence and lack of self-giving for others, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

- Be that as it may and suffice it to say; if we ever hope to survive the fiery trials in life - in those storms of life, there must be brokenness.
- In my own life, my obstinance and unwillingness to bow my head in brokenness has actually unnecessarily prolonged the trial in my life.

### **11. Courage (Verses 22-26)**

22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

- v22-23 Paul urges them to keep up their courage because God told him not to fear because no life will be lost, only their ship will be lost.
- v24 He tells them how the Lord had promised him that he would stand trial before Caesar in Rome and in His grace they will as well.
- v25-26 Paul again encourages them because he believes God will do just as he said, but, they'll still be shipwrecked on some island.
- If we as believers ever hope to survive the storms of life, we have to put our confidence in the Lord and - get our courage from the Lord.

**Joshua 1:6-7, 9** - 6 "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. ...9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." NIV

### **12. Commitment (Verses 27-30)**

27 On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. 28 They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. 29 Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight. 30 In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow.

- v27-28 After two weeks at the mercy of this storm, finally at midnight on the 14<sup>th</sup> day, they find that the water is getting shallow.
- v29 Because they feared they would be killed when they hit the rocks, they prepare the lifeboat and, interesting, "prayed for daylight."
- v30 Here, Luke tells us the reason they do this is because they want to escape so they pretend to lower some anchors from the bow.
- What's interesting is that their very survival was dependant on - their commitment to - stay together and not try to save themselves.

"The sailors, under pretence of casting out anchors from the bow, lowered the boat to make their escape, leaving the vessel and all the passengers to certain destruction'...

Charles Spurgeon

- If the truth be known, we're all prone to want to jump ship and bail out of a rough and tough situation in those storms of life.
- I suppose we can learn from this that if we try, it could be to our own peril, and that we need to be committed to - and stay in the boat.
- It's striking to me how these men planned their out by having the lifeboat lowered down and ready. That's how it starts, we plan our out.

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- For today's update, we'll continue with we've been doing in recent weeks, and connect the dots of news headlines with Bible prophecy.
- So, what we'll do is first look at the news headline, then, we'll connect it to the Bible prophecy and then the reference in scripture.

NEWS HEADLINE	BIBLE PROPHECY	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
<u>New superbug spreading from India, Pakistan</u>	There will be an increase of famines and pestilences	Matthew 24:7-8
<u>U.S. Is Bankrupt and We Don't Even Know</u>	The forcing of a cashless one world economy	Revelation 13:16-17
<u>Christ's apparition attracts thousands</u>	The apostate church will not endure sound doctrine	2 Timothy 4:3-4
<u>HHS funds 'gay' sex education</u>	Homosexuality would be as it was in the days of Lot	Luke 17:28-30
<u>Iran-Russia nuclear plant to be inaugurated in September - official</u>	The Russian-Iranian led nuclear attack against Israel	Ezekiel 38-39

- It is absolutely vital that there be two responses to these prophecy updates that we do every Sunday morning.
- First, for those who don't know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, the needed response is to "believe" in Him.

**John 14:29** "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. NKJV

- Second, for those who do know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, the needed response is to "purify ourselves."

**1 John 3:2-3** 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. NIV

## Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms, Part 5 - Acts 27:21-30 – August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- This is part five of a series I've titled; "Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms."
- We know from the text, "that" Paul survived this storm, but, I believe the Holy Spirit wants us to know "how" Paul survived this storm.
- So far we found nine of these secrets, or reasons, if you prefer, for Paul's survival, and we'll now pick it up in verse 21 with our 10<sup>th</sup> one.

### 10. Brokenness (Verse 21)

21 After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss.

- v21 Luke tells us that they had gone a very long time without food when Paul stands up and tells them in a sanctified way; "I told you so,"
- He tells them that if they would have taken his advice and not set out from Crete they would have been spared of this damage and loss.
- Not only are they broke financially, they're broken emotionally, physically, mentally, and that's the best thing that could've happened.
- The reason I say that is because God has brought them to the end of themselves. As you might imagine, He has got their attention.
- As we'll see in the next verses, Paul is going to seize the moment now that the Lord has their attention, and we'll see how they respond.

"...the first thing we must learn is that our wills must be broken to His will. ... It is painful, humiliating, but it is the only way. It is being 'Not I, but Christ' (Galatians 2:20), and a 'C' is a bent 'I'. The Lord Jesus cannot live in us fully and reveal Himself through until the proud self within us is broken. ... Being broken is both God's work and ours. He brings His pressure to bear, but we have to make the choice. For this reason, we are not likely to be broken except at the Cross of Jesus. The willingness of Jesus to be broken for us is the all-compelling motive in our being broken too. ... In a pathetic passage in a prophetic Psalm, He says, 'I am a worm and no man' (Psalm 22:6). Those who have been in tropical lands tell us that there is a big difference between a snake and a worm, when you attempt to strike at them. The snake rears itself up and hisses and tries to strike back - a true picture of self. But a worm offers no resistance, it allows you to do what you like with it, kick it or squash it under your heel - a picture of true brokenness. And Jesus was willing to become just that for us - a worm and no man."

*Lord, bend that proud and stiff necked I,  
Help me to bow the head and die;  
Beholding Him on Calvary,  
Who bowed His head for me.*

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- v25-26 Paul again encourages them because he believes God will do just as he said, but, they'll still be shipwrecked on some island.
- If we as believers ever hope to survive the storms of life, we have to put our confidence in the Lord and - get our courage from the Lord.

**Joshua 1:6-7, 9 - 6** "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. **7** Be strong and very courageous. ... **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." NIV

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- v27-28 After two weeks at the mercy of this storm, finally at midnight on the 14<sup>th</sup> day, they find that the water is getting shallow.
- v29 Because they feared they would be killed when they hit the rocks, they prepare the lifeboat and, interesting, "prayed for daylight."
- v30 Here, Luke tells us the reason they do this is because they want to escape so they pretend to lower some anchors from the bow.
- What's interesting is that their very survival was dependant on - their commitment to - stay together and not try to save themselves.

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Charles Spurgeon

- If the truth be known, we're all prone to want to jump ship and bail out of a rough and tough situation in those storms of life.
- I suppose we can learn from this that if we try, it could be to our own peril, and that we need to be committed to - and stay in the boat.
- It's striking to me how these men planned their out by having the lifeboat lowered down and ready. That's how it starts, we plan our out.

### **1. Purpose (Verse 1)**

- Though Paul could've been set free, he's still a prisoner going to Rome because this was according to God's plan and purpose for Paul.
- If we ever hope to get through and even gut through the storms of life, we will have to trust that the Lord has a purpose for it in our life.

## **2. Trustworthiness (Verses 2-3)**

- Paul is allowed to have Luke and Aristarchus board the ship with him, and he's entrusted with the freedom to go to his friends at Sidon.
- Often times the Lord will allow us to go through a specific trial because He has deemed us a trustworthy recipient of such a thing.

## **3. Perseverance (Verses 4-5)**

- Because the winds were against them, the ship was redirected in a different route requiring perseverance in order to survive the storm.
- When we realize that perseverance will come vis-à-vis the trial, then, when the winds are against us, we will persevere through the trial.

## **4. Endurance (Verses 6-8)**

- They make slow headway for many days and had difficulty because the wind didn't allow them to stay on course, requiring endurance.
- Perseverance and endurance go together. Endurance remains steadfast in the storm and perseverance presses on through the storm.
- Another way to say it is that endurance will "weather the storm," so that perseverance is then able to survive, "despite the storm."

## **5. Faith (Verses 9-12)**

- Were told that Julius took the advice of the captain and owner of the ship instead of heading Paul's warning to not set sail for Phoenix.
- The reason why both the captain and the owner, along with the majority, made the decision to keep going was because of the money.
- To stay for what could have been three months, would have meant that they would lose a lot of money. This was an economic decision.
- In other words, they made this decision based in fear financially, and not faith spiritually. Ironically, their fear of loss will become reality.

## **6. Patience (Verses 13-14)**

- Luke tells us that once they made the decision, they thought they made the right decision because the winds blew gently and favorably.
- Then all of a sudden, a hurricane force wind sweeps down upon them, and as we'll see next, they are hanging on for dear life.
- Suffice it to say, initially, the wind was more like a breeze, which is why they actually set out instead of patiently waiting it out.
- I think the lesson here becomes very clear in that impatience can be very dangerous and even deadly as it could have been for them.

## **7. Wisdom (Verses 15-17)**

15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. 17 When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along.

- v15 Luke tells us how they were caught by the storm and unable to head into the wind so they had to just let the storm drive them along.
- v16 He goes on to describe how they were barely able to secure the lifeboat to the ship so that they wouldn't lose it in the storm.
- v17 They try and hold the ship together with ropes because they fear it will break apart if they run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis.
- One has suggested that the sandbars of Syrtis was the "graveyard of ships," and was feared as much as we fear the Bermuda Triangle.

- This was the wisest things they could've done. First, they bring the lifeboat, which was towed behind the ship, and secure it to the ship.
- Then, they take the ropes and wrap them around the ship to hold it together, lower the anchor, and all while at the mercy of the storm.
- They use their God given common sense and practical wisdom to do what they could to "hold it together," so it wouldn't break apart.
- When in a storm, God has given us the common sense and the wisdom from above to take practical measures to "hold it together."
- The book of the Proverbs is replete with the practical as it relates to "wisdom," and how it both works out, and plays out in our lives.

## **8. Simplicity (Verses 18-19)**

18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19 On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

- v18 We're told that the beating and the battering from the storm was so devastating, that they had to throw their cargo overboard.
- v19 After three days of this, they had to lighten their load even more and throw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.
- This would seem to suggest the obvious; if they hadn't lightened their load throwing everything overboard, they would have been sunk.
- By now, you probably know where I'm going with this one. If we're going to survive the storms of life, we have got to simplify our lives.
- In other words, our lives in this world have become weighted and complicated by the things of this world, and they're taking us down.

## **9. Scripture (Verse 20)**

20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

- v20 They finally give up all hope of being saved because for days they couldn't see the sun or stars as the storm continued to rage.
- It's important to understand that without the sun during the day, or the stars at night, their navigational abilities had been eliminated.
- Absent the stars and sun to light the way and give them insight as to their direction, they had no way of knowing where they were going.
- So too, without specific scripture to light the way giving us insight as to our direction, we have no way of knowing where we're going.

NEWS HEADLINE	BIBLE PROPHECY	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
	The Russian-Iranian led nuclear attack against Israel	Ezekiel 38-39

	The aligning of Islamic nations who attack Israel	Ezekiel 38
	There will be an increase of famines and pestilences	Matthew 24:7-8
	The nations that curse Israel – God will curse	Genesis 12:3
	Jerusalem will become a burden to the world	Zechariah 12:3
	Damascus, Syria will become a heap of ruins	Isaiah 17:1-3
	There will be earthquakes in various places	Matthew 24:7
	The coming together of a one world religious system	2 Thessalonians 2:4
	The continual moral freefall into godless wickedness	2 Timothy 3:1-5
	The forcing of a cashless one world economy	Revelation 13:16-17
	The nations that bless Israel – God will bless	Genesis 12:2
	They say, "peace and security," then sudden destruction	1 Thessalonians 5:3
	The apostate church will not endure sound doctrine	2 Timothy 4:3-4
	Homosexuality would be as it was in the days of Lot	Luke 17:28-30

**Romans 13:11-12** 11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. NIV

**1 John 3:2-3** 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. NIV

**2 Timothy 4:8** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. NIV

**Luke 21:28** When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." NIV

**Matthew 24:44** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. NKJV

**John 14:29** "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. NKJV

#1 - False Bible teachers would be money hungry. They would be smooth talkers, have many followers, and slur the Christian faith. (2 Peter 2:1-3).

#2 - Mankind would be capable of destroying all life. (Matthew 24:21-22.) Consider that when Jesus made this prediction, the armaments of his day were swords and spears. But today, with nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, it is possible to wipe out all flesh on planet earth.

#3 - The use of nuclear weapons anticipated. (Zechariah 14:12) The neutron bomb melts (dissolves) its victims-just as Zechariah predicted 2500 years ago.

#4 - There would be a global cry for peace. (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

#5 - The Antichrist would use (false) peace to destroy many. (Daniel 8:23-25) With all the problems facing mankind, multitudes are looking for a "savior" to usher in peace and prosperity without moral accountability. The Antichrist will promise the world such a peace if they follow him-but his intentions will be sinister.

#6 - Damascus would be destroyed. (Isaiah 17:1, 14; Jeremiah 49:23-27; Amos 1:3-5) Damascus, Syria is increasingly in the news and is extremely anti-Semitic. Many terrorist organizations have their bases in Damascus. God declares that they will become a ruinous heap because they have violently taken what was not theirs.

#7 - Chaotic weather would be prevalent. (Luke 21:25-26) Jesus foresaw "the seas and the waves roaring" in the last days. He also likened these signs to birth pangs. (Matthew 24:8) The Greek word *odyn*, often translated as sorrows in Matthew 24:8, literally means birth pangs. Furthermore, the apostle Paul reminded us that the creation itself will be delivered from the curse at the end of the age. (Romans 8:22) As delivery draws near, birth pangs always increase in both intensity and frequency. Therefore, the creation itself would travail as the time of delivery draws near. Of course, chaotic weather is not new, but there are indications that we are witnessing an increase in strange weather.

- #8 - Global communications foreseen. (Revelation 11:9-10; 17-18) The Bible predicts that the entire world will "see" certain events unfold. The invention of the television and the deployment of global satellite networks during the 20th century allow news to travel the world at the speed of light for the first time ever. Remember that in the apostle John's day, news traveled at the speed of horseback.
- #9 - The Christian gospel would be preached as a warning to all nations. (Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10) Today, portions or all of the Bible have been translated into over 2,300 languages and dialects covering over 90% of the world's population.
- #10 - There would be a move toward a global government. (Daniel 2:40-44; 7:23, Revelation 13:7-8) The former Roman Empire- which encompassed present-day Europe would revive and eventually dominate the world. The European Union has steadily moved forward in its attempt to unite Europe politically and economically. It has succeeded in creating a European parliament, a court, and a common currency.
- #11 - Literal Babylon (formerly called Babel) would reemerge in the land of Shinar - known today as Iraq. (Zechariah 5:11; Genesis 10:10; Genesis 11:1-9; Isaiah 13) Saddam Hussein spent over 20 years and many hundreds of millions of dollars in rebuilding the city of Babylon.
- #12 - The possession of Jerusalem would be at the center of international turmoil. (Zechariah 12:3) Almost daily the world news reports on the conflict over Jerusalem.
- #13 - The fact that God once flooded the earth (the Noahic flood) would be denied. (2 Peter 3:5-6) There is a mass of fossil evidence to prove this fact, yet it is flatly ignored by the scientific world because of its uncanny implication.
- #14 - Increased interest in vegetarianism anticipated (1 Timothy 4:3-4) The New Age Movement has swept the globe during the past 40 years popularizing this.
- #15 - Many wars would erupt. (Mark 13:7-8) According to Project Ploughshares, there are about 40 armed conflicts in the world today.
- #16 - The earth would be filled with violence. (Luke 17:26; Genesis 6:11-13) In the United States alone, violent crime has increased nearly 500% since 1960. Fifty years ago, abortion (the violent murder of an unborn child) was illegal in most countries. Today, abortion is legal in most countries and 50 million children are aborted each year. Jesus also predicted that there would be fearful sights. (Luke 21:11) The Greek word translated fearful is phobos, which can also be translated terror. According to the U.S. State Department, between 1981 and 2000, there were 9,179 international terrorist attacks.
- #17 - Knowledge would increase. (Daniel 12:4; Isaiah 11:9) Specifically, this is referring to an understanding of Bible prophecy, but also an increase in scientific knowledge is implied.
- #18 - Despite an increase in scientific knowledge, deadly diseases (which the Bible calls "pestilences") would be prevalent. (Matthew 24:7) Emerging diseases such as AIDS, ebola, Hanta virus, Dengue, West Nile, SARS, etc, underscore this fact. Ironically, just a few decades ago, some scientists were forecasting that advances in medicine might soon eradicate deadly diseases.
- #19 - There would be technology capable of tracking the world's population and commerce. (Revelation 13:16-17)
- #20 - Despite technological advancements, famines would be common. (Luke 21:11; Revelation 6:5-8)
- #21 - The ancient city of Petra (Sela- the rock city) in Jordan would exist and become the refuge for the fleeing Jews during the Tribulation (Isaiah 16:1-4; Matthew 24:16; Revelation 12:6, 14) In 1994, Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty making Petra a potential refuge for fleeing Jews.
- #22 - Russia (Magog) would rise a military power and lead a surprise attack on Israel just prior to the final seven years of this age. (Ezekiel 38) Today, most of the southern states of the former Soviet Union are both military powerhouses and Muslim.

#23 - Turkey (Meshech) would also turn on Israel in the same surprise attack. (Ezekiel 38) In November 2002, Turkey elected a pro-Islamic party to govern the country.

#24 - Iran (Persia, Sudan (Cush), and Libya (Put) would also partake in the surprise attack on Israel. (Ezekiel 38) Anti-Semitism in the Muslim world is rampant. According to the Koran and Hadith, all Muslims are commanded to kill Jews, Christians, and non-believers in Jihad (holy war) unless they convert to Islam (Surahs 9:5 and 47:4; Volume 1, book 2, numbers 24 and 35)

#25 - Ironically Egypt and Jordan would not participate in this surprise attack. (Ezekiel 38) Astoundingly, they are the only two Arab nations that have signed a peace treaty with Israel. Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994 and Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

#26 - Birds of prey would eat the dead flesh of the enemy armies that fall in battle against Israel (Ezekiel 39:4, 17; Revelation 19:17-21) It is a little known fact that Israel is the bird migration capital of the world. In fact, 500 million to 1.5 billion birds fly over Israel each spring. During the fall migration an estimated 1 to 4 billion birds traverse Israel. Many of these migratory birds are raptors- carrion (dead flesh) eating birds of prey. In fact, 34 species raptors migrate over Israel.

#27 - Great signs from heaven predicted. (Luke 21:11) Both natural and supernatural phenomena in the earth and sky appear to be increasing.

#28 - The sun would scorch the inhabitants of the earth. (Revelation 16:8-9) Though this prophecy is clearly a divine judgment on unrepentant mankind, it is interesting that a compromise in the earth's atmosphere, due to a nuclear war or other ecological disaster could facilitate this judgment.

#29 - The nation Israel would be born in one day. (Isaiah 66:8) On May 14, 1948 Israel became a nation again.

#30 - The Jews would begin to regather in Israel. (Jeremiah 31:7-10; Ezekiel 37:21-22; 38:8) Over five million and counting!

#31 - The Jews would regain control of biblical Jerusalem. (Zechariah 12:6 ; Luke 21:24) This happened in 1967!

#32 - The Eastern Gate would remain closed until the Messiah returns. At Christ's Second Coming, he will enter Jerusalem through the now sealed Eastern Gate. (Ezekiel 44:1-3) Today, as predicted, the Eastern Gate remains sealed.

#33 - The nation of Israel which had been divided into two kingdoms since the time of Solomon (950 B.C.)- Israel in the north and Judah in the south- would be one united nation in the last days. (Ezekiel 37:15-22) At present, as predicted Israel is one nation.

#34 - The returning Jews would have no king until Jesus returns. (Hosea 3:4-5) Amazingly, not only is Israel no longer a theocracy, but today the Jewish state is governed by a democracy comprised of some 30 political parties.

#35 - During the diaspora (the dispersion of the Jews to the four corners of the globe), Israel would become a wasteland. (Deuteronomy 29:23-28; Ezekiel 36:8-11; Ezekiel 36:33-36) During the past 1900 years Israel became a nearly uninhabited desolate wasteland.

#36 - Israel, once a desolate desert, would blossom in the last days and export produce to the world. (Isaiah 27:6; 35:1-2; Ezekiel 36:34-36) Israel's increased rainfall and world renowned irrigation technology have caused the land to blossom. Incredibly, as predicted, they currently export 800 million dollars worth of fresh produce each year.

#37 - Israel would once again plant vineyards on the mountains of Israel. (Joel 3:17-18; Amos 9:13) Today, sweet wine flows from the Golan Heights and many other vineyards on the mountains of Israel.

#38 - The last days Jews would plant forests of trees. The Bible even specifies the variety of trees - cedar, acacia, myrtle, olive, cypress, pine, and box. (Isaiah 41: 18-20) This has happened in our day.



#39 - Though Israel would be the focus of many fulfilled prophecies, most Jews would remain blind to the fact that Jesus is their Messiah until the very end. (Luke 19:41-42; Luke 13:34-35; Romans 11:25-26)

#40 - The Euphrates River would be dried up. (Revelation 16:12) Today, the massive Ataturk Dam in Turkey, completed in 1990, can hold back the Euphrates to a trickle.

#41 - Asia (the kings from the east) would be capable of deploying a 200 million man army during earth's final days. (Revelation 9:14-16; 16:12) Bear in mind, in Jesus's day, there were only an estimated 170 to 400 million people on the entire planet.

#42 - Population explosion predicted. (Revelation 7:9, 14) The apostle John, who wrote the book of Revelation, was told the number of an army in the last days-two hundred million. (Revelation 9:16) This was the approximate population of the world at that time. That John also beholds "a great multitude which no one could number" coming out of the Great Tribulation at the end of the age, (Revelation 7:9, 14), indicates an enormous number of people on planet earth in the last days.

#43 - The nations would bud. (Luke 21:29-33) In Scripture, the tree is often used figuratively of a nation. (Ezekiel 31:3-6; Daniel 4:20-22) During the past century we have seen the end of the colonial era and the rapid growth in the number of newly formed independent nations.

#44 - Egypt, one of the world's greatest ancient civilizations, would exist in the last days- but only as a lowly third world nation. (Ezekiel 29:14-16) Today, as predicted, Egypt remains an impoverished nation. To show how amazing this prophecy is, compare modern Egypt with the tiny nation of Austria. Egypt has ten times more land area, and a population eight times greater than Austria. Yet, Egypt's Gross Domestic Product is only one-fifth of Austria's GDP.

#45 - Earthquakes occurring in diverse places predicted. (Matthew 24:7)

#46 - Marriage would be forbidden by many. (1 Timothy 4:3) The Bible states that marriage is honorable among all. (Hebrews 13:4) Despite this, the Catholic Church forbids their 400,000 priests, 800,000 nuns and numerous bishops, cardinals, and monks from marrying. The Orthodox Church, as well as Hindus, Buddhists, and other religious groups also impose mandatory celibacy for certain orders.

#47 - Deceptive signs and wonders would abound. (Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9)

#48 - Youth would become increasingly rebellious. (2 Timothy 3:2-3; Mark 13:12)

#49 - There would be many involved in travel. (Daniel 12:4) Prior to the industrial revolution, few individuals traveled beyond their community. Until recently, horse, foot, and boat were the only modes of transportation. Yet, in our day, millions travel to and fro great distances every year.

#50 - The rise of anti-Semitism worldwide anticipated. (Joel 3:2; Zechariah 12:2-3) In the 1940's, Hitler tried to exterminate every Jew. And in the final three and one half years of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will turn on the Jews and attempt the same.

#51 - Jesus said Christians would be hated for his name's sake. (Luke 21:17; Revelation 6:9-11; 20:4) The banning of the Bible, prayer, the Ten Commandments, nativity scenes, Christmas songs, etc reflect this trend. Also consider that more Christians were martyred during the past century than during any other period in history.

#52 - Humanity would become increasingly materialistic and lovers of pleasure. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

#53 - Homosexuality would be flaunted at the end of the age. (Luke 17:28-30; Genesis 19) Ask your grandparents if there were such things as Gay Pride parades in their day.

#54 - The Hebrew language would be restored. (Zechariah 3:9) Remarkable, but today Hebrew is once again the official language of Israel. Ultimately, when Christ returns to set up his kingdom, all people will share one speech. Not only will one language be restored, as it was before Babel, (Genesis 11:1), but all people will call on the Lord with one accord.

#55 - The Ethiopian Jews would return to Israel. (Zephaniah 3:10) At least 60.000 Ethiopian Jews have returned during the past 20 years.

#56 - Substantial wealth and luxuries foreseen. (James 5:1-3; Revelation 3:17; Revelation 18) It is interesting that 40 years ago, some authorities forecasted that the growing mass of humanity was so quickly depleting the world's resources, that many resources would be exhausted in a few decades. Yet today, vast material wealth and luxuries are in abundant supply- just as the Bible indicated 2000 years ago.

#57 - Despite increases in wealth, disparity between the wealthy and poor would continue increase. (Revelation 6:6) In Scripture, oil and wine often denote luxurious abundance. (Proverbs 21:17; Joel 2:24; Revelation 18:13) Therefore this prophecy indicates that the wealthy will continue to flourish while the poor can scarcely afford bread. Thirty years ago, the world's richest 20% had 30 times the income of the poorest quintile. Today the ratio is 60 to 1. That means that the top 20% account for 85% of the world income, while the bottom billion's share is only 1.4%.

#58 - Stress would increase because of selfishness. (2 Timothy 3:1-2) In verse 1 of 2 Timothy 3, the Greek word *chalepos* can be translated perilous or difficult or grievous or stressful. The main reason for this stress is because "men will be lovers of themselves."

#59 - Religious cults would mushroom. (Matthew 24:5, 11:2; Peter 2:1) Numerous cults have emerged in these last days.

#60 - The returning Jews would once again use the ancient shekel for commerce. (Ezekiel 45:12; Amos 8:5) Amazingly, the shekel is now Israel's official currency.

#61 - A large asteroid or meteorite predicted to hit the earth during the Tribulation. (Revelation 8:10-11) In 2002, an asteroid the size of a football field passed extremely close to earth, remaining undetected until days later.

#62 - Nuclear energy foreseen. (Revelation 8:10-11) While this prophecy is clearly a divine judgment, it is interesting that an asteroid or comet strike could easily breach nuclear power plants which are commonly located near large bodies of water. This would contaminate (make bitter) vast waterways.

#63 - Plans to rebuild the temple in Israel anticipated. (Revelation 11:1-2, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; Matthew 24:15) Preparations by the Temple Institute are nearly complete.

#64 - A red heifer without blemish must be born and sacrificed to purify the temple in Israel. (Numbers 19:2, 3, 5, 9) A kosher red heifer was born in 2002 and remains without blemish!

#65 - The temple sacrifices would be reinstituted in Israel in the last days. (Daniel 9:27; Daniel 12:11) Daniel foresaw the Antichrist ending the daily sacrifices. Therefore, the Jewish sacrificial system must have first been restored in the last days. Currently, the Temple Institute has created all the temple furniture and vessels. There are also several hundred young Jewish men in training for the Levitical priesthood.

#66 - In the last days, Israel would be surrounded by enemy nations. (Psalm 83:4-8)

#67 - Israel would remain invincible except during the Great Tribulation. (Zechariah 12:6-9) Even during those last three and one half years, when it looks like Israel will be destroyed, the Lord shall deliver Israel from the hands of her enemies. (Jeremiah 30:3-7; Zechariah 14; Mark 13:14-20) Since 1948, Israel has been attacked in three major wars and six lesser wars, yet despite being vastly outnumbered, they have destroyed all attacking foes.

#68 - In the last days, fallen angels would mingle with mankind. (Luke 17:26; Genesis 6:1-4) This may account for the explosion of ET/Alien abduction reports during the last 50 years.

#69 - The majority of those in the last days church would be lukewarm, wealthy, complacent, and would be vomited into tribulation. (Revelation 3:14-16) Polls reveal that a high percentage of professing Christians deny that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Many even deny that Jesus is God.

#70 - There would be a move towards a one-world religion.

#71 - Many would say that Christ is in the "secret chambers" or "inner rooms" in the last days. (Matthew 24:26) According to the Catholic Church, Christ is in the inner rooms of hundreds of thousands of Catholic churches- either in Eucharistic tabernacles or in Eucharistic monstrances. Jesus also warned that this deception would be accompanied by great signs and wonders. (Matthew 24:23-27) Currently, Eucharistic miracles are reported around the globe.

#72 - A woman, who is an impostor, would call herself "queen" and head the global counterfeit church in the last days. (Revelation 17; 18:7) Tens of millions follow the apparition of Mary, who claims that she is the Mother of the Church, the Lady of All Nations, the Co-Redemptrix, and the Queen of Heaven and Earth.

#73 - The woman would also embody a great city on seven hills. (Revelation 17:9, 18) The Queen of Heaven is considered the Mother of the Roman Catholic Church which has its headquarters (the Vatican) situated on seven hills. As the Catholic Encyclopedia states, "It is within the city of Rome, called the city of seven hills, that the entire area of Vatican State proper is now confined.

#74 - In the last days, this wicked woman would go out over the face of the whole earth. She would be associated with a global curse. Her final destination would be Babylon - in the land of Shinar. (Zechariah 5) Interestingly, the apparition of Mary claims she will soon travel through the entire world saving those who look to her.

#75 - This female impostor would come in Christ's name seducing his followers to commit idolatry. (Revelation 2:20-22; 17:4, 5) The apparition of Mary encourages millions to bow down to her statues and visit her shrines. Worldwide, she also stresses the importance of worshipping the Eucharist.

#76 - The Lady of Kingdoms would deceive God's people. Ultimately, the Lord would expose her true identity. (Isaiah 47) It is provocative that an apparition of Mary entitled, "The Lady of Nations" has initiated Catholics to petition the pope to declare her Co-Redemptrix.

#77 - Epidemic drug use predicted (Revelation 9:21) The Greek word translated sorceries in pharmakeia which also refers to drug use, both illegal drugs and mind-altering drugs.

#78 - Sorceries - referring to witchcraft, magic, or occult practices used to enchant and deceive, are also anticipated in the last days. (Revelation 9:21; 18:23; Isaiah 47:9-15; Micah 5:10-15)

#79 - Israel would be partitioned by other nations. (Joel 3:2; Daniel 11:39) this has been a top priority for the United Nations since Israel's statehood. Currently, the West Bank, the Golan Heights, and Gaza, have been divided up into Jewish and Palestinian settlements.

#80 - A global arms race would occur. (Joel 3:19-21) Never in history have so many nations stockpiled armaments.

#81 - Atomic fission anticipated. (2 Peter 3:10-12) The Greek word translated *elements* is *stoicheion* which refers to the Greek letters: alpha, beta, gamma, etc. These are fundamental particles and rays of the atomic nuclei which are emitted from a molecule during radioactive decay. Peter predicted these elements would "melt with fervent heat" when the earth and the heavens are "dissolved" by fire. Today, we understand that if the elements of the atom are loosed, there would be an enormous release of heat and energy (radiation).

#82 - Financial systems would depend on numbers not cash (Revelation 13:17-18)

#83 - Environmental devastation of the planet foreseen. (Revelation 11:18) Our generation has done more to ravage the environment than any previous generation.

#84 - A global economic system would exist. (Revelation 13:17; 18:3, 11, 19, 23) Today, globalists in every level of government are seeking to unite the world. Connecting the world monetarily is crucial to their goal.

#85 - There would be "signs in the sun" (Luke 21:25) This could refer to the increase in sunspots and solar flares.

#86 - Many would call themselves the Christ. (Matthew 24:5) Jesus was an itinerate preacher who never traveled outside the tiny nation of Israel and he had the audacity to say that many would come in his name, claiming to be the Christ. And yet today, multitudes within the New Age Movement, Eastern religions, and the cults themselves the Christ.

#87 - God predicted that his name would be great among the nations. (Malachi 1:11; Philippians 2:9-11) As we begin the 3rd millennium, nearly 2 billion people profess to be Christians. Ironically, over one billion Muslims regard Jesus as the Christ and the only sinless prophet, though they deny his claims that he rose from the dead and that he is divine. Most of the remaining population regard Jesus as the greatest prophet and teacher ever. As foretold, no other name compares to the fame ascribed to Jesus Christ.

#88 - Jesus predicted that even after heaven and earth pass away, his words would never be forgotten. (Luke 21:33) As we near the end of the age, we see that Christ's words remain as accurate, renowned, and relevant as they were 2000 years ago. Today, Bible societies distribute approximately 600 million Scripture portions or entire Bibles every single year.

#89 - Despite the Bible's numerous warnings and last days prophecies, most people would be taken off guard when these events culminate. (Luke 21:35-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:2)

#90 - All true followers of Christ would suddenly vanish - raptured (caught up) by God to heaven. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52) A false expectation will deceive the unsuspecting masses. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12) Today, many apparitions, angels, ETs, cults, and New Agers are offering a counterfeit explanation for this soon to take place event.

#91 - After the Rapture (during the Tribulation), innumerable multitudes from every nation would wake up and turn to the true Jesus of the Bible and be saved. (Revelation 7:9-17) In addition, the Bible indicates that after a chastening period (the Tribulation), multitudes from Egypt to Assyria (Iraq and surrounding nations) would call upon the name of the Lord and be saved. (Isaiah 19:16-25) Today, the seeds of the gospel are being spread in every nation - including the Middle East!

#92 - In the last days, Israel would have a peace treaty in place that the Antichrist will confirm and eventually break. (Daniel 9:27) Currently, the world's government are striving for an Israeli peace treaty.

#93 - The final generation would be open to receiving a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads. (Revelation 13:16) Consider how the up and coming generation is tattooed, pierced, and marked with all kinds of insignia.

#94 - Some professing Christians would give heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. (1 Timothy 4:1) This generation has witnessed the explosion of apparitions and other "heavenly visitors" that are embraced by professing Christians even though their doctrines contradict the Word of God.

#95 - People would reject the sound doctrine of the Word of God and follow the doctrines of men that appeal to their own lusts. (2 Timothy 4:3-4; Acts 20:29-30) Jesus also predicted that there would be many hypocrites within the church. (Matthew 24:48-51; Matthew 7:22-23)

#96 - Many would forsake the Ten Commandments as a moral code: blaspheming, committing adultery, disobeying parents, stealing, lying, coveting, etc. (Matthew 24:12; Revelation 9:21)

#97 - Idolatry would be pervasive. (Revelation 9:20; Isaiah 2:8, 18-20; Micah 5:10-15; Zechariah 13:1-2) An idol is anything that competes with the attention due only to our Creator. Statues, images, icons, charms, false gods, angels, apparitions, as well as money, position, pleasure, a person, possessions, and any created thing can all become idols. (Romans 1:18-25)

#98 - Blasphemy would be common. (2 Timothy 3:2; Revelation 16:9, 11, 21) Consider how often people use their Creator's name (God of Jesus Christ) as a curse word. What they have done is liken the One who is the source of every blessing (eyesight, sunsets, food, family, friends, etc.) to a four-letter curse word. Fifty years ago, Hollywood seldom used God's name in vain. Today, nearly every movie includes blasphemy.

\$99 - Sexual immorality would be rampant. (Jude 18; Revelation 9:21) Keep in mind, Jesus said whoever looks to lust has already committed adultery in his heart. (Matthew 5:28) Therefore, God equates Internet Porn, lustful movies, TV shows, and magazines to fornication.

#100 - Men would sear their conscience so they could continue in sin. (1 Timothy 4:2) The conscience is where God reveals right and wrong. *Con* means *with* and *science* means knowledge. Therefore we sin "with knowledge" when we ignore God's moral law and violate our own conscience.

#101 - Men would mock the warning signs of the end of the age saying, "These signs have always been around." (2 Peter 3:3-4) The Bible even reveals their motivation, they love lust.

**Romans 13:11-12** 11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. NIV

**1 John 3:2-3** 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. NIV

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**John 14:29** "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. NKJV

### Calvary Chapel Komo Mai - Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms - Acts 27 – August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Acts 27 1 When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. 2 We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us. 3 The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs. 4 From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us. 5 When we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia. 6 There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board. 7 We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the wind did not allow us to hold our course, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone. 8 We moved along the coast with difficulty and came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea. 9 Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Fast. So Paul warned them, 10 "Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." 11 But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship. 12 Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest. 13 When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the "northeaster," swept down from the island. 15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. 17 When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. 18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19 On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. 20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved. 21 After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in

God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island." 27 On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. 28 They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. 29 Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight. 30 In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. 31 Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." 32 So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away. 33 Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food-you haven't eaten anything. 34 Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." 35 After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. 36 They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. 37 Altogether there were 276 of us on board. 38 When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea. 39 When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. 40 Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. 41 But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf. 42 The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. 43 But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. 44 The rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land in safety.

1. I've titled tonight's teaching; "Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms." Let me ask you a question; "Is anyone here tonight going through a trial?"
2. The beloved Apostle Paul is right smack in the middle of a perilous storm of life, - and the fact of the matter is, he's right smack in the middle of God's will for his life.
3. Woven into the fabric of the text that we have before us is detailed information, - that I believe has profound personal application, - as we see Paul go through this storm.
4. We know from the text, "that" Paul survives this storm, - but, I believe the Holy Spirit wants us to know "how" Paul survived this storm.
5. In other words, what was Paul's secret in life - to surviving the storms of life? How was he able to get through - all that he went through?
6. I found 15 secrets, or reasons, if you prefer, that explain "how" it is - and even "why" it is, that we read of Paul's survival - in the face of such peril.

### 1. Purpose (Verse 1)

1. We're told that Paul, still in custody as a prisoner, is handed over to a centurion named Julius, and that they're setting sail for Rome with other prisoners on board.
2. Now, what makes this so interesting is, we're told at the end of the previous chapter how that Paul could've been set free, had he not made an appeal to Caesar.
3. This begs the question of, - what was the purpose of, having Paul still go to Rome when he could have in fact been released from prison there in Caesarea.
4. The answer to this is found four chapters back in Acts 23:11 where the Lord appears to Paul - and reveals His plan and purpose for Paul.
5. If we ever hope to get through, - and even gut through, - the storms of life, - we will have to trust that the Lord has a purpose for it in our life.

### 2. Trustworthiness (Verses 2-3)

1. Luke tells us that the Apostle is allowed to have both he, and another friend named Aristarchus, board the ship with Paul, even though neither of them are prisoners.

2. Then, upon their arrival in Sidon, Julius, in kindness, allows Paul the freedom, though still a prisoner, to go to his friends, that they might provide his needs.
3. The only explanation as to why Julius would give Paul this preferential treatment is because he knew that this prisoner could be trusted.
4. Let me take it a step further; it's for this same reason that Paul is on this ship, and about to go into this storm. It's because God knows that Paul can be trusted with this trial.
5. Often times the Lord will allow us to go through a specific trial because He has deemed us a trustworthy recipient of such a thing.

### **3. Perseverance (Verses 4-5)**

1. As they set out, they encounter strong winds that were against them, so much so that they had to take a different course.
2. Not only are they delayed in the winds, they are redirected because of the winds, and end up at a different location other than their intended destination.
3. This is interesting because at first glance, it's easy to miss a specific detail that the Holy Spirit had Luke record in the text.
4. Notice that it's when the winds are against them, that they take a different route even though it's more difficult with more resistance.
5. This would have required tremendous perseverance in order for them to survive the winds resistance, and therein lies the secret.
6. When we realize that perseverance will come vis-à-vis the trial, - then, when the winds are against us, we will persevere through the trial.

### **4. Endurance (Verses 6-8)**

1. Here, they board an Alexandrian ship and set out only to encounter even more adversity that ultimately results in more delays as they are redirected yet again.
2. Notice how Luke describes it: we made "slow headway" for "many days" and had "difficulty" because the wind didn't allow us to stay on course.
3. As you might imagine, this would have required unspeakable endurance to persevere in the face of "slow" progress for "many days" and riddled with such "difficulty."
4. Though not the same, perseverance and endurance do go together. Endurance remains steadfast in the storm and perseverance presses on through the storm. (Don McClure – Steadfast and Immoveable Hoover Dam – 1 Corinthians 15:58)
5. Another way to say it is that endurance will "weather the storm," so that perseverance is then able to survive, "despite the storm."
6. We need both endurance and perseverance to survive the trials of life, but, it's a paradox. It's the trials of life that actually produce that endurance and perseverance in our life.

### **5. Faith (Verses 9-12)**

1. Were told that Julius takes the advice of the captain and owner of the ship instead of heading Paul's warning not to set sail for Phoenix, which was a harbor in Crete.
2. Now, the reason why both the captain and the owner, along with the majority, made the decision to keep going was because of the money.
3. To stay there and winter there for what could have been three months would have meant that they would lose a lot of money. This was an economic decision.
4. In other words, they made this decision based in fear financially, and not faith spiritually. Ironically, their fear of loss will become reality.
5. It probably goes without saying, because the lesson here becomes quite clear as it relates to fear. Fear



is the antitheses of faith, and if we in fear try to keep it, we'll lose it.

#### **6. Patience (Verses 13-14)**

1. Luke tells us that once they made that ill fated decision, they thought they had made the right decision because the winds blew gently and favorably.
2. Then all of a sudden, a hurricane force wind sweeps down upon them, and as we'll see next, they are hanging on for dear life.
3. It's important to take note that initially, the wind was more like a breeze, which is why and when they actually set out - instead of patiently waiting it out.
4. In other words, they felt that the favorable circumstances of a gentle breeze confirmed their decision to go when they did, instead of waiting as they should have done.
5. Here's what I'm thinking; impatience is dangerous and even deadly when it rushes ahead of the Lord, whereas patience is peaceful and will safely wait on the Lord.

#### **7. Wisdom (Verses 15-17)**

1. Because the ship was caught by the storm, they couldn't head into the wind, and were just at the mercy of the storm as it tossed them to and fro.
2. It's because of this that they make the decision to secure the lifeboat to the ship, and hold it together with ropes so it wouldn't break apart when they ran aground.
3. This is the wisest things they could've done in that they are demonstrating a God given wisdom that James describes in 1:2-8.

**James 1:2-8** 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. NIV

#### **8. Simplicity (Verses 18-19)**

1. We're told that the beating and battering was so devastating, that they have to throw their cargo and equipment overboard.
2. This would seem to suggest the obvious; if they hadn't lightened their load throwing everything overboard, they would certainly have been sunk.
3. By now, you probably know where I'm going with this one. If we're going to survive the storms of life, we have got to simplify our lives.
4. I believe that our lives in this world have become too weighted, - and complicated by the things of this world, and they're taking us down.

#### **9. Scripture (Verse 20)**

1. Here, Luke tells us the storm was so bad that they couldn't see the sun by day nor the stars at night, and were finally giving up all hope of being saved.
2. It's important to understand that without the sun during the day, or the stars at night, their navigational abilities had been eliminated.
3. Absent the stars and sun to light the way and give them insight as to their direction, they had no way of knowing where they were going.
4. So too, is this true for me and you; without specific scripture to light the way giving us insight as to our direction, we have no way of knowing where we're going. (Psalm 119:105 and Psalm 19)

#### **10. Brokenness (Verse 21)**

1. Luke records how that they had gone a very long time without food when Paul stands up and tells them in a sanctified way; "I told you so."
2. He tells them that if they would have taken his advice and not set out from Crete they would have been spared of this damage and loss.
3. Not only are they broke financially, they're broken emotionally, physically, mentally, and that's the best thing that could've ever happened to them.
4. The reason I say that is because God has brought them to the end of themselves, and as you might imagine, He has got their attention.
5. As we'll see in the next verses, Paul is going to seize the moment now that the Lord has their attention, and we'll see how they respond.
6. That being said, here's the take away from verse 21, when in our brokenness it becomes impossible for us, it will then become possible for God.

#### **11. Courage (Verses 22-26)**

1. Paul urges them to keep up their courage because God told him not to fear and that no life would be lost, and that only their ship would be lost.
2. He tells them how the Lord had promised him that he would stand trial before Caesar in Rome and in His grace they will get to Rome as well.
3. Paul again encourages them because he believes God will do just as he said even though they will still be shipwrecked on some island.
4. If we as believers ever hope to survive the storms of life, we have to put our confidence in the Lord - and get our courage from the Lord.

#### **12. Commitment (Verses 27-30)**

1. Because some feared they would be killed when they hit the rocks, they prepare the lifeboat and, interesting, we're told that they "prayed for daylight."
2. Luke then tells us the reason that they do this is because they want to escape, so they pretend to lower some anchors from the bow.  
What's interesting is that their very survival was dependant on - their commitment to - stay together and not try to save themselves.
4. If the truth be known, we're all prone to want to jump ship and bail out of a rough and tough situation in those storms of life.
5. I suppose we can learn from this in that if we try, it could be to our own peril, and that we need to be committed and stay in the boat.
6. It's striking to me how these men planned their out by having the lifeboat lowered down and ready. That's how it starts, we plan our out.

#### **13. Discernment (Verses 31-32)**

5. Paul says to the centurion and the soldiers that unless they stay in the ship, they cannot have any hope of being saved.
6. Then, Luke tells us that in response to Paul's warning, the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away.
7. This is interesting because it seems to indicate that Paul was the only one who was on to them and figured out what their scheme was.
8. I believe the Holy Spirit had Luke record this detail for us to learn how important it is to discern the spirits so we know whether or not it's spiritual warfare.

#### **14. Comfort (Verses 33-38)**

6. Paul encourages them to eat because for 14 days they've been seasick and on edge hanging on for

their lives, and haven't eaten.

7. He then urges them to eat food in order to survive and reassures them that not one of them will lose a single hair from his head.
8. After saying this, he takes some bread and gives thanks to God in front of all of them, then broke it and they all began to eat it.
9. They're all encouraged, all 276 of them, and they eat as much as they want then lighten the ship even more by throwing the grain overboard.
10. This is interesting because it's like Paul is saying; "come on guys, we've been through a lot and we all need to eat some 'comfort-food.' (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

#### 15. Belief (Verses 39-44)

5. Though they don't recognize the bay, they run the ship aground at a sandy beach hoping to keep it together, but it's to no avail.
6. They had planed kill the prisoners to prevent them from escaping, but the Centurion stops them because he wants to spare Paul.
7. Those who could swim went first, the rest got there on the boards from the ship, and we're told that everyone of them reached land safely.
8. Should this come as any surprise? Isn't this exactly what God promised that He would do? Oh, if only they would have just believed the Word of the Lord through Paul!

### Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- For today's update, I find myself continuing the connecting of dots between the headlines in the news, and the prophecies in the Bible.
- One reason for this is; world events are moving so quickly, that to focus in on just one prophecy may blur the bigger prophetic picture.
- So, what we'll do is first look at the news headline, then, we'll connect it to the Bible prophecy and then the reference in scripture.

NEWS HEADLINE	BIBLE PROPHECY	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
<a href="#">Peru Hit by Bubonic Plague</a>	There will be an increase of famines and pestilences	Matthew 24:7-8
<a href="#">Mosque Near Ground Zero 'Like a Pig in the Temple'</a>	The nations that curse Israel – God will curse	Genesis 12:3
<a href="#">Iran quake injures 274; new (5.8 Mag) tremor further south</a>	There will be earthquakes in various places	Matthew 24:7
<a href="#">IMF Says U.S. Financial System May Need \$76 Billion in Capital</a>	The forcing of a cashless one world economy	Revelation 13:16-17
<a href="#">Evangelical Lutheran pulpits welcome non-celibate gay pastors</a>	The apostate church will not endure sound doctrine	2 Timothy 4:3-4
<a href="#">West Hollywood Rally Celebrates Prop 8 Verdict</a>	Homosexuality would be as it was in the days of Lot	Luke 17:28-30

- Perhaps you could indulge me for just a moment as I address a concern of mine as it relates to Bible prophecy. Please hear my heart.
- We don't do these prophecy updates every Sunday morning before our teaching of God's Word just for the sake of being in the know.
- Rather, we do these prophecy updates so that we will know and let others know. In other words, we need to know so we can be ready.

**Matthew 24:44** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. NKJV

- When we know the Lord and are ready for the soon return of the Lord then we can tell others so that they'll also come to know the Lord.

**John 14:29** "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. NKJV

## Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms, Part 4 - Acts 27:15-20 – August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- This is part four of a series I've titled; "Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms." Paul is in the midst of a perilous storm on this ship to Rome.
- We know from the text, "that" Paul survived this storm, but, I believe the Holy Spirit wants us to know "how" Paul survived this storm.
- In other words, what was Paul's secret in life - to surviving the storms of life? How was he able to get through all that he went through?
- So far, we found six of these secrets, or reasons, if you prefer, for Paul's survival, and we'll now pick it up in verse 15 with our 7<sup>th</sup> one.

### 7. Wisdom (Verses 15-17)

15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. 17 When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along.

- v15 Luke tells us how they were caught by the storm and unable to head into the wind so they had to just let the storm drive them along.
- v16 He goes on to describe how they were barely able to secure the lifeboat to the ship so that they wouldn't lose it in the storm.
- v17 They try and hold the ship together with ropes because they fear it will break apart if they run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis.
- One has suggested that the sandbars of Syrtis was the "graveyard of ships," and was feared as much as we fear the Bermuda Triangle.

- This was the wisest things they could've done. First, they bring the lifeboat, which was towed behind the ship, and secure it to the ship.
- Then, they take the ropes and wrap them around the ship to hold it together, lower the anchor, and all while at the mercy of the storm.
- They use their God given common sense and practical wisdom to do what they could to "hold it together," so it wouldn't break apart.
- When in a storm, God has given us the common sense and the wisdom from above to take practical measures to "hold it together."
- The book of the Proverbs is replete with the practical as it relates to "wisdom," and how it both works out, and plays out in our lives.

**Proverbs 28:26** He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe. NIV

**Proverbs 4:11-13** 11 I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. NIV

**James 3:17** But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. NIV

### 8. Simplicity (Verses 18-19)

18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19 On the third day, they

threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

-v18 We're told that the beating and the battering from the storm was so devastating, that they had to throw their cargo overboard.

-v19 After three days of this, they had to lighten their load even more and throw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

- This would seem to suggest the obvious; if they hadn't lightened their load throwing everything overboard, they would have been sunk.

- By now, you probably know where I'm going with this one. If we're going to survive the storms of life, we have got to simplify our lives.

- In other words, our lives in this world have become weighted and complicated by the things of this world, and they're taking us down.

**Ecclesiastes 7:29** "God made us plain and simple, but we have made ourselves very complicated". TEV

Some of God's best truths, like priceless treasures, are hidden in depths most folks never take the time to search out. We have made ourselves very complicated. Those who determine to simplify their lives quickly discover it is a rigorous solo voyage against the wind. Noise and words are frenzied, hectic schedules dull our senses, closing our ears to His still, small voice and making us numb to His touch. Noise and crowds have a way of siphoning our energy and distracting our attention, making prayer (worship) an added chore rather than a comforting relief. If the pace and push, the noise and the crowds are getting to you, it's time to stop the nonsense and find a place of solace to refresh your spirit. How busy we have become and as a result, how empty we have become. Simplicity, silence, solitude, and surrender (will make) the pause and the hush sing a double song... "Be still, and know"!

Chuck Swindol "Intimacy with the Almighty"

### 9. Scripture (Verse 20)

20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

-v20 They finally give up all hope of being saved because for days they couldn't see the sun or stars as the storm continued to rage.

- It's important to understand that without the sun during the day, or the stars at night, their navigational abilities had been eliminated.

- Absent the stars and sun to light the way and give them insight as to their direction, they had no way of knowing where they were going.

- So too, without specific scripture to light the way giving us insight as to our direction, we have no way of knowing where we're going.

**Psalm 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. NIV

**Psalms 19:1-3** 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. 3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. NIV

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."
- For today's update we'll continue with something we did two weeks ago and connect the dots of Bible Prophecy to recent headlines.
- One headline we looked at on Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup> was about an earthquake in Alaska, then that afternoon we had one here on Oahu.

- I've organized this in three ways; first the news headline, second, the Bible prophecy, and then third, the reference in the scriptures.
- So what we'll do is first look at the news headline, then we'll connect it to the Bible prophecy and then the reference in scripture.

NEWS HEADLINE	BIBLE PROPHECY	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
<u>'Iran nearing nuclear bombs' Russia warns</u>	The Russian-Iranian led nuclear attack against Israel	Ezekiel 38-39
<u>Israel: Turkey aligning with Muslim world at our expense</u>	The aligning of Islamic nations who attack Israel	Ezekiel 38
<u>Israel warning as Libya aid boat eyes Gaza landing</u>	The aligning of Islamic nations who attack Israel	Ezekiel 38
<u>Assad, Gaddafi say Arab countries must unite against Israel</u>	The nations that bless Israel – God will bless	Genesis 12:2-3
<u>JERUSALEM SITUATION A 'TIME BOMB'</u>	Jerusalem will become a burden to the world	Zechariah 12
<u>Analysis: Lebanon: Conflict widens to Syria</u>	Damascus, Syria will become a heap of ruins	Isaiah 17:1-3

- Be that as it may, and suffice it to say, we are living in very exciting times, and the clarion call is for us to understand the present times.

**Romans 13:11-12** 11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. NIV

## Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms, Part 3 - Acts 27:9-14 – August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

- This is part three of a series I've titled; "Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms," as we study the Apostle Paul's life and all he went through.
- Other than the Savior, and perhaps Job before Him, I think everyone of us would be hard pressed to find anyone who had it so rough.
- Paul's life was riddled with difficulty, and here, as he draws near to the end of his life we see him in another storm that threatens his life.
- So how did he do it? How did the Apostle Paul survive it? What was the secret to Paul's victorious life in surviving the storms of life?

### 1. Purpose (Verse 1)

- Though Paul could've been set free, he's still a prisoner going to Rome because this was according to God's plan and purpose for Paul.
- If we ever hope to get through and even gut through the storms of life, we will have to trust that the Lord has a purpose for it in our life.

### 2. Trustworthiness (Verses 2-3)

- Paul is allowed to have Luke and Aristarchus board the ship with him, and he's entrusted with the freedom to go to his friends at Sidon.
- Often times the Lord will allow us to go through a specific trial because He has deemed us a trustworthy recipient of such a thing.

### 3. Perseverance (Verses 4-5)

- Because the winds were against them, the ship was redirected in a different route requiring perseverance in order to survive the storm.
- When we realize that perseverance will come vis-à-vis the trial, then, when the winds are against us, we will persevere through the trial.

### 4. Endurance (Verses 6-8)

- They make slow headway for many days and had difficulty because the wind didn't allow them to stay on course, requiring endurance.
- Perseverance and endurance go together. Endurance remains steadfast in the storm and perseverance presses on through the storm.
- Another way to say it is that endurance will "weather the storm," so that perseverance is then able to survive, "despite the storm."

### 5. Faith (Verses 9-12)

9 Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Fast. So Paul warned them, 10 "Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." 11 But the



centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship. 12 Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest.

- v9 They'd lost an enormous amount of time by now and it had become dangerous because it was after the time of the Fast in October.
- v10 Paul warns them by telling them that he sees that this is going to be disastrous bringing great loss to their ship, cargo and their lives.
- v11 In spite of Paul's warning the centurion follows the advice of the ship's owner instead of listening to Paul, and decides to keep going.
- v12 Since the harbor wasn't safe to winter in, the majority decide that they should continue on to Phoenix, which is a harbor in Crete.

- To say that they are in a difficult predicament would be an understatement because if they stay, it's to their peril, and if they go, it's peril.
- In other words, either way they are risking everything, and could in fact lose everything regardless of which way they may decide to go.
- Be that as it may, Paul is trusting in the Lord - because of his faith in the Lord to get them through this dangerous and disastrous storm.

- Hebrews 11:1 in the King James Version says: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
- I like it in the NIV even better; "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1 NIV)

- We need to look at something else here before we move on; notice that Julius took the advice of the captain and owner of the ship.
- The reason why both the captain and the owner, along with the majority, made the decision to keep going was because of the money.
- To stay for what could have been three months, would have meant that they would lose a lot of money. This was an economic decision.
- I think the lesson we can learn from this is that we should base our decisions on faith spiritually, and not base them on fear financially.

### 6. Patience (Verses 13-14)

13 When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the "northeaster," swept down from the island.

- v13 They think they had made the right decision when at first the wind blew both gently and favorably, so they continue to sail on.
- v14 It isn't very long when all of a sudden, a hurricane force wind called the "northeaster," or "Euroclydon" sweeps down upon them.
- It must have dawned on them at this point that Paul was right, and they should have just stayed put and waited until winter was over.
- It's interesting to note that at first, the wind was more like a breeze, which is why they actually set out instead of patiently waiting it out.
- One has aptly noted that this majority was impatient; they took a vote, and tested the wind in order to find the quickest and easiest way.
- I think the lesson here becomes very clear in that impatience can be very dangerous and even deadly as it could have been for them.

As one commentator wrote: "Beware when the south wind blows softly, especially when it blows in the teeth of advice given by an Apostle Paul. Too many have been lured away by the soft south wind. It is all too easy to take seemingly favorable circumstances as the deciding factor in the matter of guidance and ignore the sterner counsel of the Word of God. ...The scales come down on the side of the expert, on the side of science and scholarship, on the side of the man whose opinion is weighted by his position, by his learning in his particular field. The voice of the humble believer in touch with God is ignored. Darwin is given precedence over Moses; the scientist is preferred before the saint; and all are losers."

### 2 Timothy 3:10-11 - Proverbs 16:32

### 7. Wisdom (Verses 15-17)

15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. 17 When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along.

- v15 Luke tells us how they were caught by the storm and unable to head into the wind they had to just let the storm drive them along.
- v16 He goes on to describe how they were barely able to secure the lifeboat to the ship so that they wouldn't lose it in the storm.
- v17 They try and hold the ship together with ropes because they fear it will break apart if they run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis.
- One has suggested that the sandbars of Syrtis was the "graveyard of ships," and was feared as much as we fear the Bermuda Triangle.
- What these men demonstrate by doing what they do here is called "wisdom," and quite frankly, this God given wisdom saved their lives.

**Proverbs 28:26** He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe. NIV

**Proverbs 4:11-13** 11 I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. NIV

### 8. Simplicity (Verses 18-19)

18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19 On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

- v18 We're told that the beating and the battering from the storm was so devastating, that they had to throw their cargo overboard.
- v19 After three days of this, they had to lighten their load even more and throw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.
- This would seem to suggest the obvious; if they hadn't lightened their load throwing everything overboard, they would have been sunk.
- By now, you probably know where I'm going with this one. If we're going to survive the storms of life, we have got to simplify our lives.

- In other words, our lives in this world have become weighted and complicated by the things of this world, and they're taking us down.

**Ecclesiastes 7:29** "God made us plain and simple, but we have made ourselves very complicated". TEV

Some of God's best truths, like priceless treasures, are hidden in depths most folks never take the time to search out. We have made ourselves very complicated. Those who determine to simplify their lives quickly discover it is a rigorous solo voyage against the wind. Noise and words are frenzied, hectic schedules dull our senses, closing our ears to His still, small voice and making us numb to His touch. Noise and crowds have a way of siphoning our energy and distracting our attention, making prayer (worship) an added chore rather than a comforting relief. If the pace and push, the noise and the crowds are getting to you, it's time to stop the nonsense and find a place of solace to refresh your spirit. How busy we have become and as a result, how empty we have become. Simplicity, silence, solitude, and surrender (will make) the pause and the hush sing a double song... "Be still, and know"!

Chuck Swindol "Intimacy with the Almighty"

### **9. Scripture (Verse 20)**

20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

- v20 They finally give up all hope of being saved because for days they couldn't see the sun or stars as the storm continued to rage.
- It's important to understand that without the sun during the day, or the stars at night, their navigational abilities had been eliminated.
- Absent the stars and sun to light the way and give them insight as to their direction, they had no way of knowing where they were going.
- So too, without specific scripture to light the way giving us insight as to our direction, we have no way of knowing where we're going.

**Psalms 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. NIV

### **10. Brokenness (Verse 21)**

21 After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss.

- v21 Luke tells us that they had gone a very long time without food when Paul stands up and tells them in a sanctified way; "I told you so,"
- He tells them that if they would have taken his advice and not set out from Crete they would have been spared of this damage and loss.
- Not only are they broke financially, they're broken emotionally, physically, mentally, and that's the best thing that could've happened.
- The reason I say that is because God has brought them to the end of themselves. As you might imagine, He has got their attention.
- As we'll see in the next verses, Paul is going to seize the moment now that the Lord has their attention, and we'll see how they respond.

"...the first thing we must learn is that our wills must be broken to His will. ... It is painful, humiliating, but it is the only way. It is being 'Not I, but Christ' (Galatians 2:20), and a 'C' is a bent 'I'. The Lord Jesus cannot live in us fully and reveal Himself through until the proud self within us is broken. ... Being broken is both God's work and ours. He brings His pressure to bear, but we have to make the choice. For this reason, we are not likely to be broken except at the Cross of Jesus. The willingness of Jesus to be broken for us is the all-compelling motive in our being broken too. ... In a pathetic passage in a prophetic Psalm, He says, 'I am a worm and no man' (Psalm 22:6). Those who have been in tropical lands tell us that there is a big difference between a snake and a worm, when you attempt to strike at them. The snake rears itself up and hisses and tries to strike back - a true picture of self. But a worm offers no resistance, it allows you to do what you like with it, kick it or squash it under your heel - a picture of true brokenness. And Jesus was willing to become just that for us - a worm and no man."

*Lord, bend that proud and stiff necked I,  
Help me to bow the head and die;  
Beholding Him on Calvary,  
Who bowed His head for me.*

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### **11. Courage (Verses 22-26)**

22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

- v22-23 Paul urges them to keep up their courage because God told him not to fear because no life will be lost, only their ship will be lost.
- v24 He tells them how the Lord had promised him that he would stand trial before Caesar in Rome and in His grace they will as well.
- v25-26 Paul again encourages them because he believes God will do just as he said, but, they'll still be shipwrecked on some island.
- If we as believers ever hope to survive the storms of life, we have to put our confidence in the Lord and - get our courage from the Lord.

**Joshua 1:6-7, 9 - 6** "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. ... 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." NIV

### **12. Commitment (Verses 27-30)**

27 On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. 28 They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. 29 Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors

from the stern and prayed for daylight. 30 In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow.

-v27-28 After two weeks at the mercy of this storm, finally at midnight on the 14<sup>th</sup> day, they find that the water is getting shallow.

-v29 Because they feared they would be killed when they hit the rocks, they prepare the lifeboat and, interesting, "prayed for daylight."

-v30 Here, Luke tells us the reason they do this is because they want to escape so they pretend to lower some anchors from the bow.

- What's interesting is that their very survival was dependant on - their commitment to - stay together and not try to save themselves.

"The sailors, under pretence of casting out anchors from the bow, lowered the boat to make their escape, leaving the vessel and all the passengers to certain destruction'...

Charles Spurgeon

- If the truth be known, we're all prone to want to jump ship and bail out of a rough and tough situation in those storms of life.

- I suppose we can learn from this that if we try, it could be to our own peril, and that we need to be committed to - and stay in the boat.

- It's striking to me how these men planned their out by having the lifeboat lowered down and ready. That's how it starts, we plan our out.

### 13. Discernment (Verses 31-32)

31 Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." 32 So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away.

-v31 Paul says to the centurion and the soldiers that unless they stay in the ship, they cannot have any hope of being saved.

-v32 Luke tells us that in response to Paul's warning, the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away.

- I believe that the Holy Spirit had Luke record this detail for us to learn - how important it is to discern. Paul has excellent discernment.

"...Paul saw through their cowardly purpose and prevented it. It is a shameful thing to leave others to perish while we can be of any service to them."

Charles Spurgeon

### 14. Comfort (Verses 33-38)

33 Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food-you haven't eaten anything. 34 Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." 35 After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. 36 They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. 37 Altogether there were 276 of us on board. 38 When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

-v33 Paul encourages them to eat because for 14 days they've been seasick and on edge hanging on for their lives, and haven't eaten.

-v34 He then urges them to eat food in order to survive and reassures them that not one of them will lose a single hair from his head.

-v35 After saying this, he takes some bread and gives thanks to God in front of all of them, then broke it and they all began to eat it.

-v36-38 They're all encouraged, all 276 of them, and they eat as much as they want then lighten the ship throwing the grain overboard.

- This is interesting because it's like Paul is saying; "come on guys, we've been through a lot and we all need to eat some 'comfort-food.'"

One commentator wrote; "God has scores of promises of His comfort and care for us in desperate times, but they only benefit us if we believe them."

"Picture this one brave man, in the dim twilight, standing in the midst of nearly three hundred haggard faces, speaking so calmly and giving them such sound advice. Faith ennobles believers, and makes them comforters of others. Such calm devotion spreads courage on all sides. If Paul, even in a storm, gave thanks, what shall be said of those persons who rush upon their meals like swine, and never thank the Lord who provides for them?"

Charles Spurgeon

### 15. Belief (Verses 39-44)

39 When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. 40 Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. 41 But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf. 42 The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. 43 But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. 44 The rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land in safety

-v39-41 Though they don't recognize the bay, they run the ship aground at a sandy beach hoping to keep it together, but it's to no avail.

-v42-43 They had planed kill the prisoners to prevent them from escaping, but the Centurion stops them because he wants to spare Paul.

-v44 Those who could swim went first, the rest got there on pieces of the ship, and we're told that everyone of them reached land safely.

- Should this come as any surprise? Isn't this exactly what God promised that He would do? Oh, if only they would have just believed!

"Thus was the promise of God kept to the letter; the peril was great, but all were saved from death. God never did forfeit His Word, and He never will. It is nothing more than right that we should, without wavering, believe His promises; and if we do so, our lives will be free from care, and we shall have daily cause for rejoicing. This day may unbelief be cast out, and may childlike confidence rule our spirits."

Charles Spurgeon

"Only the rarest conjunction of favorable circumstances could have brought about such a fortunate ending to their apparently hopeless situation . . . all these circumstances are united in St. Paul's Bay."

Ramsay, cited by F.F. Bruce

"If they missed Malta, there would have been nothing for it but to hold on for 200 miles until they struck the Tunisian coast, and no one could have expected the ship to survive that long."

F.F. Bruce

## Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms, Part 2 - Acts 27:4-8 – July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- This is part two of a series I've titled; "Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms," as we continue to uncover the secrets of Paul's success.
- I'm always careful when I use the word success because the world has hijacked it and both perverted and distorted it as well.
- Paul's life as a successful Christian life and I believe the Holy Spirit inspired Luke to include these details for us to learn these secrets.

### 1. Purpose (Verse 1)

- Though Paul could've been set free, he's still a prisoner going to Rome because this was according to God's plan and purpose for Paul.

### 2. Trustworthiness (Verses 2-3)

- Paul is allowed to have Luke and Aristarchus board the ship with him, and he's entrusted with the freedom to go to his friends at Sidon.

### 3. Perseverance (Verses 4-5)

4 From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us. 5 When we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia.

- v4 As they set out again, they have to change their direction by passing to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against them.
- v5 We're told that after sailing across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, they finally land at Myra which is in Lycia.
- This is one of those places where you sort of have to wonder why the Holy Spirit would have Luke record the detail of what happened.
- In other words, why do we need to know that the ship was redirected in a different route because of the winds that were against them?
- I believe that it's because the Holy Spirit wants us to know that Paul's perseverance came packaged with both patience and flexibility.
- Here's the question we need to ask; "how upset do we get when "the winds are against us," and we have to take a different route?

**James 1:2-8** 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. NIV

**Romans 5:1-5** 1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. NIV

**2 Peter 1:5-9** 5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. NIV

### 4. Endurance (Verses 6-8)

6 There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board. 7 We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the wind did not allow us to hold our course, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone. 8 We moved along the coast with difficulty and came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.

- v6 Luke tells us that the centurion had found an Alexandrian ship that was on its way to Italy, and has all the prisoners put on board.
- v7 They made "slow" headway for "many days" and had "difficulty" because the wind "didn't allow," them to stay on course once again.
- v8 They then had to move along the coast with "difficulty" before finally coming to a place that is called; "Fair Havens" near Lasea.
- Notice Luke's description; "slow, many days, difficulty, thrown off course." Certainly, they must be completely out of the will of the Lord!

- Actually, they are right smack in the will of God even though they are right smack in the middle of what will turn out to be a hurricane.

- Perhaps you're wondering if there's actually any difference between perseverance and endurance. There is, but they go hand in hand.

- Let me explain; endurance is to remain steadfast in the difficulty, and perseverance is to continue pressing on through the difficulty.

- Maybe another way to say it is that endurance will "weather the storm," so that perseverance is then able to survive, "despite the storm."

**2 Timothy 2:3-7** 3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs-he wants to please his commanding officer. 5 Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. 7 Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. NIV

**Acts 14:22** We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. NIV

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."
- For today's update we'll do something we've done before and connect the dots of Bible Prophecy to recent headlines in today's news.
- I've organized this in three ways; first the news headline, second, the Bible prophecy, and then third, the reference in the scriptures.

NEWS HEADLINE	BIBLE PROPHECY	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
<a href="#">Crisis Awaits World's Banks as Trillions Come Due</a>	The forcing of a cashless one world economic system	Revelation 13:16-17
<a href="#">Interfaith harmony is need of the hour: Minister</a>	The coming together of a one world religious system	2 Thessalonians 2:4
<a href="#">Montana School Proposes Controversial Sex Education Program</a>	The continual moral freefall into godless wickedness	2 Timothy 3:1-5
<a href="#">Earthquake of 6.7 Magnitude Strikes Alaska</a>	There will be earthquakes in various places	Matthew 24:7

- Be that as it may, and suffice it to say, we are living in very exciting times, and the clarion call is for us to understand the present times.

**Romans 13:11-12** 11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. NIV



- The last two chapters here in the book of Acts, are perhaps amongst the most fascinating and interesting of all the chapters in the Bible.
- The reason that I both believe this and say this is because the detailed information has profound application to us in our lives today.
- As we watch what happens with and to the beloved Apostle Paul, we can't help but learn some invaluable life lessons from his hard life.

- Today will be part one of a series I've titled; "Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms." We're about to discover Paul's secret of success.
- I'm always careful when I use the word success because the world has hijacked the word success and both perverted and distorted it.
- Paul's life as a successful Christian life and I believe the Holy Spirit inspired Luke to include these details for us to learn these secrets.

### **1. Purpose (Verse 1)**

1 When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment.

- v1 Paul, along with other prisoners, were placed under a centurion named Julius of the Imperial Regiment as they set sail for Rome.
- Now, we had just read, in the last verse of the last chapter, that if Paul had not appealed to Caesar, he could have been set free.
- Surely, Paul would have known this, yet as a Roman citizen, he exercised his right to appeal to Caesar knowing he'd end up in Rome.

- Perhaps the question is, "why?" Why would Paul make this appeal in the first place? I believe that there are two reasons he did this.
- First, it was God's purpose for Paul to impact Rome with the gospel so he could impact the world because of Roman rule in the world.
- Second, when the Roman Commander had him taken into protective custody in Jerusalem, the Lord told him that he would go to Rome.

**Acts 23:11** The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome." NIV

### **2. Trustworthiness (Verses 2-3)**

2 We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us. 3 The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs.

- v2 Luke tells us, though not a prisoner, that he was with Paul onboard as they set sail for the ports along the coast of the Asian province.
- v3 We're told that Julius, out of kindness to Paul, though he's still a prisoner, allows him the freedom to have fellowship with his friends.

- I believe that Luke was allowed to board this ship, and Paul was allowed to have this kind of freedom because of his trustworthiness.
- It's interesting to note that this Centurion had likely just met Paul and couldn't have known about him - unless he was told about him.
- In other words it must have been refreshing to the Centurion to have a prisoner like Paul who actually had integrity and was trustworthy.

**Proverbs 25:13** Like the coolness of snow at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the spirit of his masters. NIV

**Proverbs 11:3** The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity. NIV

- It will be the trustworthiness of Paul that will come into play again when they are shipwrecked. Paul will encourage them to trust God.

"For the sake of one good man all on board the vessel were preserved. May the Lord give to us, also, all who are with us. Paul was accompanied by Luke and other believers, there were also with him the courteous centurion, several prisoners, a crew of rough sailors, and a band of fierce soldiers, and God gave him all that sailed with him. We pray that all our family, our fellow church members, our servants, our neighbors, our work people, and even our enemies, may be saved. Are not our hearts large enough to pray for all? May the Lord give us faith to intercede for them, and what a joy it will be if all shall come safely through the tempests of this life to the shores of heaven! Grant it, O lord! Amen and amen."

Charles Spurgeon

Daniel 3:17-18 Daniel says even if God doesn't deliver us, Esther says even if I perish, Job even if He slay me

**CHAPTER I**  
**BROKENNESS**

We want to be very simple in this matter of Revival. Revival is just the life of the Lord Jesus poured into human hearts. Jesus is always victorious. In heaven they are praising Him all the time for His victory. Whatever may be our experience of failure and barrenness, He is never defeated. His power is boundless. And we, on our part, have only to get into a right relationship with Him, and we shall see His power being demonstrated in our hearts and lives and service, and victorious life will fill us and overflow through us to others. And that is Revival in its essence.

If, however, we are to come into this right relationship with Him,

- For today's update		
NEWS HEADLINE	BIBLE PROPHECY	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
	The forcing of a cashless one world economy	Revelation 13:16-17
	The continual moral freefall into godlessness	2 Timothy 3:1-5
	The Russian-Iranian led nuclear attack against Israel	Ezekiel 38-39
	The nations that bless Israel – God will bless	Genesis 12:2-3
	The nations that curse Israel – God will curse	Genesis 12:2-3

**Romans 13:11-12** 11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. NIV



**1 John 3:2-3** 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. NIV

**2 Timothy 4:8** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. NIV

**Luke 21:28** When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." NIV

**Matthew 24:44** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. NKJV

**John 14:29** "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. NKJV

## COMMUNION SERVICE

- ~~~~~~~~~*{{began by praying for the gift of Tongues for the brothers who expressed a desire to pray for that particular gift}}*

### •~~~~~~~~~**ACTS 25**

- ~~~~~~~~~The account of the Apostle Paul's very memorable defense before the Roman Procurator Festus and King Agrippa (and his wife Bernice)

- o Middle of a story that had begun a few years earlier

- Included his arrest by Roman soldiers
- After having been rescued by them from the violent mob at the Temple mount
- The plot against his life by the 40 religious fanatics
- Resulting military escort from Jerusalem to Ceasarea to ensure his safety
- Left in prison without charges for two years

- ~~~~~~~~~Felix hoping that Paul would try to bribe him

- When it became apparent that Paul was not going to have his case heard fairly by Festus (who had taken over from Felix), Paul exercised his right to appeal to Caesar
- And so Festus, having to specify charges, determined that there would be a hearing for the purpose of hearing Paul's case, so as to enumerate charges.

- ~~~~~~~~~When permission was given to Paul to speak, he became the focus of the room

- o Everyone's eyes now came upon Paul

- o And everybody had two questions:

- What would he do
- What would he say

- o The most powerful government leaders in that part of the world were now his audience

- o Would he use this opportunity to defend himself?

- o Would he accuse the government of abuse of his rights?

- When Paul opened his mouth, he proceeded to give them the most valuable thing that he had to give

- o The one thing that Rome couldn't take away from him – chains couldn't take away from him – no one could take away from him

- o He gave them his testimony.

- o His personal story of how he came to faith in the Lord Jesus.

- It is interesting to notice how often the Apostle Paul publicly recounted his testimony, and how often that it's recorded in the Scriptures

- o No less than 3 times in Acts alone

- o Multiple references to it in his epistles

- o This tells us that Paul never lost his awe over his salvation story

- It had an ongoing influence on his Christian life and service
- Had a healthy humbling praise-producing effect on his personal life and ministry
- As he thought about what he was before Jesus, how God had saved him, and the amazing privilege that was his to live his life for Jesus

- What was I before Christ?

- o What would I be now without Him?

- o What did He save us out of – and what is the life that He has saved us into?

- o Thank the Lord for our testimony – for our salvation

**May 18**

Preaching: Truth Divorced From Life

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. --James 1:22

There is scarcely anything so dull and meaningless as Bible doctrine taught for its own sake. Truth divorced from life is not truth in its Biblical sense, but something else and something less....

No man is better for knowing that God in the beginning created the heaven and the earth. The devil knows that, and so did Ahab and Judas Iscariot. No man is better for knowing that God so loved the world of men that He gave His only begotten Son to die for their redemption. In hell there are millions who know that. Theological truth is useless until it is obeyed. The purpose behind all doctrine is to secure moral action....

Any man with fair pulpit gifts can get on with the average congregation if he just "feeds" them and lets them alone. Give them plenty of objective truth and never hint that they are wrong and should be set right, and they will be content.

On the other hand, the man who preaches truth and applies it to the lives of his hearers will feel the nails and the thorns. He will lead a hard life, but a glorious one. May God raise up many such prophets. The church needs them badly. Of God and Men, 25-28.

[http://blog.ted.com/2009/03/sixth\\_sense\\_demo.php](http://blog.ted.com/2009/03/sixth_sense_demo.php)

Increase in knowledge Daniel

Implant in forearm and forehead Revelation

## MY RESPONSE TO ALL GOD HAS DONE FOR ME

"The person in a position of leadership, no matter how prominent or how obscure, must be one whose very life is grounded in God Himself. The energy and vitality and love to reach the lost must come from Christ resident within that individual. ...Positive proof that the one in the pulpit is sent of God lies not only in his humility, compassion, and communion with Christ, but also in the calm courage of his character. The leader must be one who is utterly fearless for God, not in an overbearing or dictatorial manner, but rather in relentless loyalty and love to the Master. This person will not pander to the selfish interests of his hearers. He will not accommodate his message to the corruption of his culture. He will be above petty politics among his congregation. He will stand solid for the truth revealed to him in God's Word. He will not dilute or diminish the noble demands made by God for His called out people. Nor will he hesitate to confront the wrongs in his community without flinching. The above is no easy assignment. It calls for enormous faith in God as well as great fortitude in personal conduct. At times it may make one exceedingly unpopular with certain elements in society. But this should be so. If the truth is proclaimed with the unction of God's gracious Spirit, it is bound to polarize people. Christ Himself stated categorically, "Either you are for me or you are against me." The people in the pews are entitled to look for unflinching faithfulness to God and to His Word in the life and language of their leaders. ...The minister's role is not to make people comfortable in their padded pews. He is not there to pander to the petty preferences of his parishioners. He is there to proclaim the whole counsel of God. He is there to declare eternal truth. He is there to call men and women to Christ. Far too many contemporary Christian churches and mission organizations do not seek for such leadership. Instead, they place undue importance upon personal charm, eloquent speech, academic credentials, or organizational ability. It is almost as if they were advertising for a business executive to run a commercial corporation rather than searching for God's spokesman. Little wonder that they frequently end up with predators in their pulpits! The end result may well be a slick and smooth success by worldly standards, but this does not mean that the great purposes of God for His people have been achieved. Often all that is accomplished is the consolidation of another social club where people come for food, fun, and fellowship. God's work in the world is not advanced, but the people are deluded to believe the opposite. They are deceived and know it not. A genuine man of God does not even try to come to an easy accommodation with our decadent society. At great personal cost and at the risk of being very un-popular he will dare to be "a voice in the wilderness," the prophet of his generation calling people to repentance. He will seek the lost sunk in sin. He will warn them to turn from their wicked ways. So He will go out with tears and come in with gladness, bringing some who were astray home to the Master. Such a leader is not intimidated by his contemporaries. He is called of God to noble service, and he does not draw back from his duties. His people cannot muzzle him. The world cannot silence his message. And the enemy trembles, for he is a man of truth. He does not hesitate to challenge others to follow Christ at any cost. Nor does he delude them into the false belief that it is easy to be the Master's man. He will urge his fellow pilgrims to count the cost of following Christ. He will enable them to see what a glorious honor it is to be a child of the Most High."

W. Phillip Keller - "PREDATORS IN OUR PULPITS" pp. 26-28

George Phillips , an elderly man, from Meridian, Mississippi, was going up to bed, when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to go turn off the light, but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?" He said "No," but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me.

Then the police dispatcher said "All patrols are busy. You should lock your doors and an officer will be along when one is available.."

George said, "Okay."

He hung up the phone and counted to 30. Then he phoned the police again.

"Hello,I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed.. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I just shot and killed them both, the dogs are eating them right now." and he hung up.

Within five minutes, six Police Cars, a SWAT Team,a Helicopter, two Fire Trucks, a Paramedic, and an Ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence, and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George , "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

**(True Story) I LOVE IT! Don't mess with old people.**

## ***Where is the U.S. in Bible Prophecy?***

- [China and US may be heading for a showdown](#)
- [Deficits making U.S. military nervous](#)
- [Obama blocks delivery of bunker-busters to Israel](#)
- [US Lawmakers Stand Up Against Obama for Israel](#)
- [FBI Director Mueller: Al-Qaida Still Wants Nuclear Bomb](#)

## ***Israel - God's Timepiece***

- [America's shiny new Palestinian militia](#)
- [Washington sharpens crisis with Israel, may give Palestinians military shield](#)
- [More than 2,000 Fatah defect to Hizballah, Iran's first big Palestinian gain](#)
- [Temple Institute wants to Offer Biblical Passover Sacrifice](#)
- [Quartet Wants Palestinian state Within 2 Years](#)

## ***Apostate Christianity***

- [Episcopal Church approves consecration of first lesbian bishop](#)
- [Presbyterian Church USA that blames Israel for the "Palestinian resistance"](#)
- [Preachers Who Don't Believe — The Scandal of Apostate Pastors](#)

## ***Increase in Knowledge & New Technologies***

- [How Privacy Vanishes Online](#)
- [Hacker Disables More Than 100 Cars Remotely](#)
- [Senators push Obama for biometric national ID card](#)
- [Nano Based RFID Ink Could Change The Way We Buy & Sell](#)

## ***Christian Worldview & Issues***

- [Gallup: Young adults trending pro-life](#)
- [Another City Orders Home Bible Studies Closed](#)
- [Glenn Beck, Social Justice, and the Limits of Public Discourse](#)
- [Need for Online Missionaries Rises as Web Outreach Booms](#)
- [How should we handle different prophetic interpretations?](#)
- [Shocking Experiment - Would You Torture People To Be On TV?](#)

## ***Other Events To Watch***

- [Tony Blair Looks To US Pastor Rick Warren In Bid To Unite Faiths](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ginamccray** <[yeshuasavedme@bellsouth.net](mailto:yeshuasavedme@bellsouth.net)>

Date: Tue, Feb 23, 2010 at 2:16 PM

Subject: TIME SENSITIVE-PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT COMING SOON Please read!

To: Steve Hadley <[steve@harvestreno.org](mailto:steve@harvestreno.org)>

Cc: [office@calvarychapelkaneohe.com](mailto:office@calvarychapelkaneohe.com)

Dear Brethren in Christ,

This is the most amazing insight that I have ever seen since I became an avid Bible prophecy student!! My mother and I discussed this and have come to some conclusions that I feel has to be what is about to transpire or close to it! It is just too perfect. What is so dumbfounding is that much of it is contrary to what all Bible prophecy scholars and students have thought for all these years. I think that God may be revealing this right before the time it will come to pass.

I hope that this is not confusing. There are so many amazing details that I felt necessary to include. Please forgive any typos as there may be several! Remember, this is my interpretation from Biblical prophecy that seems to be aligning with current events.

Daniel 12:4 But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase."

Of course, we know that in today's world that many rush here and there and that knowledge is increasing exponentially so we know that this pertains to the here and now of our modern era.

The below website explains how there will be the Psalm 83 war in which Israel regains most of her Cove neat land after decimating Syria and the other members of the Psalm 83 coalition-<http://www.arewelivinginthelastdays.com/road/mewar.html>. This would also be fulfillment of Isaiah 17:1-3 1 The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap.

It has been appearing for awhile as though Israel and Iran would be at war due to Iran's nuclear development. So, according to previous understanding of end times events, the war of Gog and Magog would ensue.

However, the whole land at peace and unwallled villages in Ezekiel 38:11 "And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwallled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates".was troublesome to this concept as Israel is not at peace,

Realizing that there is coming Psalm 83 war it is all evident now how this will probably happen. Israel will have no enemies on her borders as she will own all the land. Therefore, the 403 mile wall that Israel built in recent years to keep out the Palestinian terrorists will no longer be needed after this war-thus, "unwallled villages".. After such a victory, Israel will be at peace which has not happened since her inception in 1948.

Please keep in mind the players in the Psalm 83 war in relation to current Mid East events:

Psalm 83 Coalition:

Tents of Edom = [decedents of Esau] Palestinian Refugees and Southern Jordanians

Ishmaelites = Saudi Arabians  
Moab = Palestinian Refugees and Central Jordanians  
Hagrites = Egyptians  
Geba = Northern Lebanese  
Ammon = Palestinian Refugees and Northern Jordanians  
Amalek = Arabs South of Israel  
Philista = Palestinian Refugees and Hamas of Gaza Strip  
Inhabitants of Tyre = Hezbollah and Southern Lebanese  
Assyria = Syrians and perhaps Northern Iraqis included  
Children of Lot = Moab and Ammon

Please note that Syria and Israel have been spouting war rhetoric for weeks now. Syria and Iran made a pact to be allies against Israel in any military conflict about a year ago from my understanding. The following link is of recent threats as of February 22, 2010, <http://www.fivedoves.com/letters/feb2010/mercer223-1.htm>.

There are "reports that Lebanon was blasting large areas of rock near the Lebanese-Syrian border to build a staging area for the deployment of Syrian tanks, presumably in preparation of Syria getting involved in what we can be sure is on the horizon, another military conflict between Israel and her enemies." <http://www.rapturealert.com/2010/022010ruinous.asp>

Note that both Syria and Lebanon are in the Psalm 83 coalition. The Palestinians and other Muslim/Arabs listed in the alliance will probably join into the fray once the conflict begins.

Notice that Syria, who now has the pact with Iran to go against Israel is now saying: If Israel Attacks Iran, Syria Is Likely to Fire Tens of Thousands of Missiles at Israel, Some with Chemical and Biological Warheads.

So, according to this threat, Israel will be attacked with WMD from Syria if Israel strikes any of Iran's nuclear sites. As named after Samson in the Bible wherein he killed himself in destroying his enemies, Israel has the Samson Option where Israel will respond with massive retaliation according to the "alleged deterrence strategy of massive retaliation with nuclear weapons as a "last resort" against nations whose military attacks threaten its existence, and possibly against other targets as well" [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samson\\_Option](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samson_Option).

This means Syria would be destroyed and Damascus, the oldest inhabited city in the history of the world would be a "ruinous heap". Damascus is the headquarters for the major terrorist organizations so that in itself is sufficient cause for the fulfillment of Isaiah 17.

Likely scenario- Israel does a pre-emptive strike against Iran in light of the fact of their recent admittance to being a "nuclear nation". As Iran's ally, Syria begins strikes Israel as they are threatening above, Israel would then be forced into the Samson Option because of Syria's use of WMD.

Note that In 2007 Israel had bombed Syria's nuclear plant in order to prevent Syria from gaining nuclear weapons as Israel knew Syria would use it against her as soon as the weapon was completed (as will Iran). Sometime in the last month there has been intelligence that North Korea has begun military shipments to Syria. So, Israel is also aware that Syria is probably restarting her nuclear program with the aid of North Korea.

This next Sunday February 28th, the Knesset, the Israeli cabinet, is supposed to meet to decide then whether or not to strike Iran. <http://www.larouchepac.com/node/13618>

As such, the Psalm 83 war is looming VERY CLOSE!

The Temple Mount Faithful which whose main objective is the rebuilding the 3rd temple has just issued this:

"An Urgent Call From Gershon Salomon, Chairman of the Temple Mount and Land of Israel Faithful Movement, to All the Nations and to Everyone in the World:

The pressures on Israel at this time that are coming from the East and the West indicate that the end-time war of the nations



against the G-d and people of Israel, which was prophesied by the prophets of Israel to be the ultimate judgment upon the nations, is behind the door [http://www.templemountfaithful.org/News/the\\_coming\\_end-time\\_war\\_against\\_israel.htm](http://www.templemountfaithful.org/News/the_coming_end-time_war_against_israel.htm).

They have never issue any such alerts or warnings so, they too are seeing this end time war coming!

The temple Mount faithful recently completed the altar for sacrifices. They now have duplicated all the items needed in the Temple. The Sanhedrin (religious authorities) have announced an Initiative calling upon the Jewish people in Israel and throughout the world to participate in the Korban Pesachis planning on resuming them next month (March 2010).

<http://todayperhaps.ning.com/forum/topics/sacrifice-on-temple-mount-this?commentId=3830723%3AComment%3A6612>

Keep in mind that there was no Sanhedrin for 1600 years until 2005 when they were reestablished. This is further proof of the end times that we are in.

The red heifer was the only item that was missing. That of course could not be duplicated by human hand. It had to be birthed on God's time frame. So, this was all that was needed for the 3rd Temple.

Evidently, they have EVERYTHING completed for the Temple and temple worship-including the red heifer! They have not announced that they have a pure red heifer but this may possibly for protection of the animal.

The fact that they are planning the resumption of sacrifices next month appears as though they would have to have the red heifer ashes for purification. As such, the 3rd Temple would be completely ready to go!

Back to Psalm 83 war-after the Psalm 83 war the anti-Zionist countries of the world would probably be reeling with hatred towards Israel at the carnage. They hate Israel anyway so this would really inflame them especially if Israel was to take the land of her conquered enemies (especially Saudi Arabia's oil rich land). No longer is it acceptable to seize and own land after military defeat as in the days of the "empires". The world would be livid about Israel's occupation of the land of her defeated enemies.

This is where the "confirm a covenant with man" of Daniel 9:27 comes to play. Everyone has always thought that the "covenant with many" would be a peace plan between Israel and the Palestinians. The Palestinians will NEVER agree to anything less than the total destruction of Israel and tiny Israel cannot give away much more land. There will never be any peace plan acceptable. Many have tried through the years but all have failed at their "peace plans". After the Psalm 83 war a Mid-East peace plan will be a moot point.

Israel has never been more alone than with Obama as president with his anti-Israel policies. America is headed toward become a socialist nation and thus will remain against Israel. God cannot and will not allow Israel to be destroyed and will not allow His land to be given away. We are now at the precipice of the entire world and Obama strong-arming Israel to give away land and divide Jerusalem.

God cannot stand for His Holy city to be divided. That is another reason why everything is coming to a head with the soon advent of the Psalm 83 War.

This covenant has to be an agreement already in place as it is going to be "confirmed". It cannot be the Oslo Accords (which really only favored the Palestinians anyway). It will not be a covenant of men, but of God as His covenant is all that is important-God does not care about mere men's agreements !

The covenant in question will be God's covenant giving the land to Abraham and his descendants- Genesis 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

19 The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites,

20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims,

21 And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites

After the war, the antichrist will stand up for Israel's right to keep her God-given land from the Psalm 83 war. He may even acknowledge the fact that this extra land is actually God's covenant land given to Israel.

Daniel 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Since the antichrist figure is instrumental in Israel being able to retain and redeem her covenant land it will thought that he is their long awaited Messiah.

As per the preceding Temple Mount Faithful link: "The complete redemption of Israel, the rebuilding of the Temple, and the coming of Messiah Ben David are the next stages in G-d's end-time plans with Israel and the entire world". I

In Judaism, they believe their coming Messiah is mandated to bring the world into alignment with the word of God so when the antichrist protects Israel's right to redeem God's covenant land, he will be viewed as the Messiah.

Also, since Israel would then own the land, then the 3rd Temple can be rebuilt. We know that the antichrist shows his true colors in the "midst of the week" as in Daniel 9:27 when he desecrates the 3rd Temple midway into the Tribulation.

According to the below, the revealing of the antichrist which I project would be when it is evident who he is, by his role in confirming the covenant with many, will be after the Rapture.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8a".. now you know what is restraining him from being revealed at this time; it is so that he may be manifested (revealed) in his own appointed time. For the mystery of lawlessness (that hidden principle of rebellion against constituted authority) is already at work in the world, but it is restrained only until he who restrains is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one (the antichrist) will be revealed "

Once the Rapture of the Church occurs, the normal restraining power of the Holy Spirit is "taken out of the way". Notice that this Scripture does not say the Holy Spirit is removed from this world, only that His restraining power is "taken out of the way". Therefore, it would appear that the Rapture of the Church will be sometime after Psalm 83 war, if not before. If we are still here after this war, then the Rapture would not be far off according to the above interpretation of 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8.

Many reputable Christians have validated their reasoning and are of the mindset that Obama may possibly be THE antichrist (or at least a forerunner). Even though Obama is presently anti-Israel and pro-Arab-Muslim he could flip-flop (as is his method of operation). After there is no Palestinian presence to give Israel's land away to, Obama could change his tune and instead advocate in favor of Israel regaining her covenant land.

If not Obama, there will be someone who will broker and confirm this covenant allowing Israel to redeem the rest of her land. So, the antichrist will be revealed after the Psalm 83 war, whoever he may be.

I theorize that after Iran recovers from any strikes from Israel then I think that then Iran, in retaliation, will join with Russia and the other countries of the Gog-Magog alliance who are coming "to take a spoIL". Israel will have the land and the oil!

Gog Magog Coalition:

Magog, Rosh = Russia and the former Soviet republics

Persia = Iran

Cush = Sudan, Ethiopia, and Possibly Eritrea

Put = Libya, Algeria, and Tunisia

Gomer, Meshech, and Tubal = Turkey (and possibly Germany and Austria)

Beth-togarmah = Turkey, Armenia, and the Turkish-speaking people of Asia Minor & Central Asia

Prophecy about Gog and Future Invasion of Israel

1 And the word of the LORD came to me saying, 2 "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him 3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. 4 "I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding

swords; 5 Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; 6 Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops-many peoples with you.

7 "Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them. 8 "After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them. 9 "You will go up, you will come like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you."

10 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil plan, 11 and you will say, 'I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates, 12 to capture spoil and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places which are now inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired cattle and goods, who live at the center of the world.' 13 "Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish with all its villages will say to you, 'Have you come to capture spoil? Have you assembled your company to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to capture great spoil?'"

Of course,I am not certain that all these presumptions are 100% correct but I feel confident that at least some will come to pass as all the puzzle pieces seem to be fitting perfectly.

Israel, supposedly will =be deciding in the next week whether or not to strike Iran, which the affirmative would begin the Psalm 83 war! So, time is growing short!

It is so exciting to see God's prophetic Word coming to fruition in the near future with the Rapture as our ultimate goal. However, we need to remember to be praying for the multitude of souls that will pass into eternity as a result of this war. Most are Muslims and Jews who do not have Jesus as their Savior. We need to pray for the peace of Jerusalem as we are instructed and pray for those who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Psalm 122:6 Pray for peace in Jerusalem. May all who love this city prosper..

Spread the Gospel while as our time to do so appears to be drawing to a close- John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

MARANATHA!

Gina

---

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## Possible timeline for events of the apostle Paul's life:

2BC – Paul was probably born in Tarsus of Cilicia around this date (same date as our Lord), and of the tribe of Benjamin. Mother was a Jew, father a Roman

11BC – Paul was sent to Jerusalem around the age of 13 to learn in the schools there, specifically under Gamaliel (Acts 22:3), the most respected teacher.—Easton's

AD 34 - Paul was in Jerusalem and voted for and participated in the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:54-8:1)

AD 34 - Paul began to persecute the church to the death going door to door (Acts 8:2-3).

AD 35-Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-19).

AD 35-Paul initially went and began to preach the gospel in Damascus, but then had to flee the city for his life, going down the wall in a basket (Acts 9:20-25).

AD 35-Paul went to the deserts of Arabia where he is silent for 3 years and is taught the gospel message to preach by Jesus Christ (Gal. 1:17).

AD 38-Paul went back to Damascus (Gal. 1:17).

AD 38-Paul took a quick trip to Jerusalem (15 days) and met Peter and James (Acts 9:26; Gal. 1:18-19), but again he had to flee for his life (Acts 9:28, 29).

AD 38-Paul went back to his home town of Tarsus where he is silent for 6 years (Acts 9:30; Gal. 1:21).

AD 44-Barnabas went to Tarsus to find Paul and then brought him to Antioch (Acts 11:25).

AD 45-Paul sets out from Antioch on 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey (Acts 13:2-3).

AD 50-Paul and Barnabas go to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles to determine if the Gentiles need to keep the law (Acts 15:1).

AD 51-Paul takes Silas and goes on 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey (Acts 16:6) to visit churches they had planted.

AD 51- While at Corinth Paul wrote the two letters to the Thessalonians.

AD 54- Paul began his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey.

AD 55- Before Paul's exit from Ephesus, he wrote his first letter to the Corinthians.

AD 57- While in Macedonia, Paul wrote his second letter to the Corinthians.

AD 57 - While in Corinth, Paul wrote his epistle to the Galatians.

AD 58 - While still in Corinth, Paul wrote his epistle to the Romans.

AD 58 – Paul goes to Jerusalem and is almost murdered.

AD 58 – Paul is taken to Caesarea and incarcerated when a plot to murder him was discovered.

AD 58 – Paul wrote the epistle to the Colossians (or AD 62 when incarcerated in Rome).

AD 58 – Paul wrote the epistle to the Philippians (or AD 62 when incarcerated in Rome).

AD 58 – Paul wrote the epistle to Philemon (or AD 62) when incarcerated in Rome).

AD 60 – When Paul was tried before Porcius Festus, he appealed to Ceasar and was sent off to Rome (Acts 25:11).

AD 61 – After a perilous journey at sea that included shipwreck, Paul made it to Rome.

AD 62 – Paul wrote the epistle to the Ephesians.

AD 63 - Paul wrote the epistle to the Hebrews.

AD 63 - Paul was released and probably visited western and eastern Europe and Asia Minor.

AD 63- Paul wrote his First Epistle to Timothy.

AD 63 - Paul wrote his Epistle to Titus.

AD 64 - Rome burned with fire and Nero blamed it on the Christians, and as a result Paul was again incarcerated in Rome.

AD 65 - Paul wrote his second epistle to Timothy.

AD 66 - Paul was martyred by Nero (tradition has it that he was beheaded).

**A Sunday School teacher, a Mr. Kimball, in 1858, led a Boston shoe clerk to give his life to Christ. The clerk, Dwight L. Moody, became an evangelist. In England in 1879, he awakened evangelistic zeal in the heart of Fredrick B. Meyer, pastor of a small church. F. B. Meyer, preaching to an American college campus, brought to Christ a student named J. Wilbur Chapman. Chapman, engaged in YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to do evangelistic work. Billy Sunday held a revival in Charlotte, N.C. A group of local men were so enthusiastic afterward that they planned another evangelistic campaign, bringing Mordecai Hamm to town to preach. During Hamm's revival, a young man named Billy Graham heard the gospel and yielded his life to Christ. Only eternity will reveal the tremendous impact of that one Sunday School teacher, Mr. Kimball, who invested his life in the lives of others.**

[http://www.kawanabaptist.org.au/Illustrations/General/Moody\\_conversion.htm](http://www.kawanabaptist.org.au/Illustrations/General/Moody_conversion.htm)

A man observed a woman in the grocery store with a three-year-old girl in her basket. As they passed the cookie section, the child asked for cookies, and her mother told her "no." The little girl immediately began to whine and fuss, and the mother said quietly, "Now Ellen, we just have half of the aisles left to go through; don't be upset. It won't be long."

He passed the mother again in the candy aisle. Of course, the little girl began to shout for candy. When she was told she couldn't have any, she began to cry. The mother said, "There, there, Ellen, don't cry. Only two more aisles to go, and then we'll be checking out."

The man happened to be behind the pair in the checkout line, where the little girl began to clamor for gum and burst into a terrible tantrum upon discovering her mother would not buy any gum. "Ellen, we'll be through this checkout stand in five minutes, and then you can go home and have a nice nap," the mother said.

The man followed them out to the parking lot and stopped the woman to compliment her. "I couldn't help noticing how patient you were with little Ellen," he said.

The mother replied, "My little girl's name is Tammy. I'm Ellen."

**WHY BE DEDICATED AND GO TO CHURCH?** Here is a good answer. A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all." This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" *When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!*

**"The end and aim of human life is not happiness, but "to glorify God and enjoy Him for ever"**

*Chambers, Oswald, Biblical Ethics, (United Kingdom: Marshall Morgan & Scott) c1947*

Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962), the world-famous violinist, earned a fortune with his concerts and compositions, but he generously gave most of it away. So, when he discovered an exquisite violin on one of his trips, he lacked the money to buy it.

Later, having raised enough money to meet the asking price, he returned to the seller, hoping to purchase that beautiful instrument. But to his great dismay it had been sold to a collector. Kreisler made his way to the new owner's home and offered to buy the violin. The collector said it had become his prized possession and he would not sell it.

Disappointed, Kreisler was about to leave when he had an idea. "Could I play the instrument once more before it is consigned to silence?" he asked. Permission was granted, and the great virtuoso filled the room with such heart-moving music that the collector's emotions were deeply stirred. "I have no right to keep that to myself," he exclaimed. "It's yours, Mr. Kreisler. Take it into the world, and let people hear it."

To sinners saved by grace, the gospel is like the rapturous harmonies of heaven. We have no right to keep it to ourselves. Jesus tells us to take it into our world and let people hear it.

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A farmer was going to sell his litter of pups. While he was putting up a sale sign on his farm gate post, a little boy came to him and asked the farmer, "How much is a puppy?" with squinting eyes because of the bright summer sunlight.

"Well son, these puppies are pure breed and they are expensive." The boy fished out a handful of coins from his coverall pocket. "I have 39 cents. Will this do?" The farmer couldn't help himself but smiling at the boy and said, "Oh, I reckon so. That will do just fine." Then he turned around and whistled toward his barn.

There were four cutest puppies you have ever seen running and stumbling toward the farmer. As they arrived to the fence, they stuck their noses out to the little boy and started to lick and jumping at him. From the corner of his eye, the boy noticed the fifth puppy was coming toward him rather slowly and limping. The boy looked up from his squatted position and said, "I will take that one," as he pointed to the fifth puppy.

"Son, you don't want that one. He cannot run with you and play with you well. He is a runt and crippled." The boy started to pull up his pants legs and showed his leg braces and specially made shoes to the farmer. And he said, "I don't run well either. I can understand him. I will be his friend."

You see, spiritually we are crippled because of our wicked sinful nature. Jesus came to us and became our friend and identify with us by taking our sins upon Himself.

That is Grace of God.

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Grace is the mother and nurse of holiness, and not the apologist of sin. – Spurgeon

Gents,

You probably have already seen this, but I thought I would pass this along for your edification. Tips for the trade, you might say.

FIVE BEST THINGS TO SAY IF YOU GET CAUGHT SLEEPING AT YOUR DESK:

NUMBER 5: They told me at the Blood Bank this might happen.

NUMBER 4: 'This is just a 15 minute power nap they raved about in the time-management course you sent me to.

NUMBER 3: 'Whew! Guess I left the top off the White-out. You probably got here just in time!

NUMBER 2: Did you ever notice sound coming out of these keyboards when you put your ear down real close?

NUMBER 1: And MY all time Favorite: best thing to say if you get caught sleeping at your desk:

(Raising your head slowly) '...in Jesus' name, Amen

## **JOKE CONGRESS Think about this 1 AUG 2009**

1. Cows
- 2... The Constitution
3. The Ten Commandments

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### **1 COWS**

Is it just me, or does anyone else find it amazing  
That during the mad cow epidemic our government could track  
a single cow, born in Canada almost three years ago, right  
To the stall where she slept in the state of Washington ?  
And, they tracked her calves to their stalls. But they are  
Unable to locate 11 million illegal aliens wandering around  
Our country. Maybe we should give each of them a cow..

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### **2 THE CONSTITUTION**

They keep talking about drafting a Constitution for  
Iraq .... Why don't we just give them ours? It was  
Written by a lot of really smart guys, it has worked for  
Over 200 years, and we're not using it anymore.

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### **3 THE 10 COMMANDMENTS**

The real reason that we can't have the Ten  
Commandments posted in a courthouse or Congress is this --  
You cannot post 'Thou Shall Not Steal' 'Thou  
Shall Not Commit Adultery' and 'Thou Shall Not  
Lie' in a building full of lawyers, judges and  
Politicians ..... It creates a hostile work environment

**They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used  
to all pee in a pot & then once a day it was taken & sold to  
the tannery.....if you had to do this to survive you were**



## **"Piss Poor"**

**But worse than that were the *really poor* folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot.....they "didn't have a pot to piss in" & were the lowest of the low** < /B>

**The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:**

**Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June.. However, since they were starting to smell . . . brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.**

**Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water!"**

**Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."**

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.

*(Getting quite an education, aren't you?)*

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire.. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man

could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

**Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.**

**Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.**

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

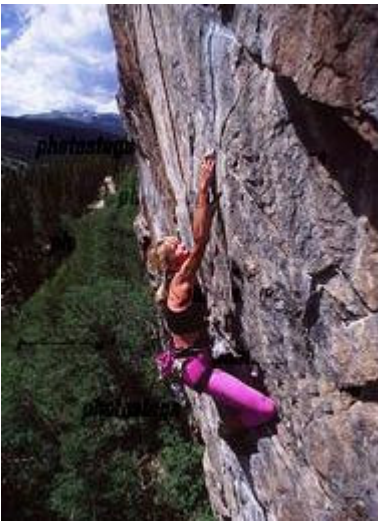
**England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the**

**graveyard shift.) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer...**

***And that's the truth...Now, whoever said History was boring !!!***

**So . . . get out there and educate someone! ~~~ Share these facts with a friend like I just did! ! !**

The Ant and the Contact Lens



Brenda was almost halfway to the top of the tremendous granite cliff. She was standing on a ledge where she was taking a breather during this, her first rock climb. As she rested there, the safety rope snapped against her eye and knocked out her contact lens. "Great", she thought. "Here I am on a rock ledge, hundreds of feet from the bottom and hundreds of feet to the top of this cliff, and now my sight is blurry." She looked and looked, hoping that somehow it had landed on the ledge. But it just wasn't there.

She felt the panic rising in her, so she began praying. She prayed for calm, and she prayed that she may find her contact lens.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but it was not to be found. Although she was calm now that she was at the top,

she was saddened because she could not clearly see across the range of mountains. She thought of the bible verse "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth."

She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Later, when they had hiked down the trail to the bottom of the cliff they met another party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?"

Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across a twig on the face of the rock, carrying it!



The story doesn't end there. Brenda's father is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a cartoon of an ant lugging that contact lens with the caption, "Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."

I think it would do all of us some good to say, "God, I don't know why You want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But, if You want me to carry it, I will."

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

Yes, I do love GOD. He is my source of existence and my Savior. He keeps me functioning each and every day Without Him, I am nothing, but with Him....I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. (Phil. 4:13)

This is perfect for the rest of 21 -

#### WHAT CAUSES ARTHRITIS?

A drunk man who smelled like beer sat down on a subway next to a pastor. The man's tie was stained, his face was plastered with red lipstick, and a half-empty bottle of gin was sticking out of his torn coat pocket.

He opened his newspaper and began reading. After a few minutes the man turned to the pastor and asked, "Say preacher, what causes arthritis?"

The pastor replied, "Well, it's caused by loose living, being with cheap, wicked women, too much alcohol, contempt for your fellow man, sleeping around with prostitutes and lack of a bath."

The drunk muttered in response "Well, I'll be!" Then returned to his paper.

The pastor, thinking about what he had said, nudged the man and apologized. "I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to come on so strong. How long have you had arthritis?"

The drunk answered, "I don't have it, preacher. I was just reading here that the head of the largest Church in the city does."

MORAL: Make sure you understand the question before offering the answer.

Skip – 37:35



abuses  
admonitions  
advantages  
affirmations

alternatives  
answers  
arguments  
aspects

aspirations  
assertions  
assurances  
attainments

attitudes  
  
barriers  
beginnings

beliefs  
benefits  
blessings  
  
causes  
certainties  
challenges  
changes  
charges  
claims  
clues  
commitments  
comparisons  
compromises  
concepts  
concessions  
conclusions  
conditions  
consequences  
contrasts  
credentials  
criticisms

dangers  
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definitions  
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destinies  
devices  
directions  
directives  
disciplines  
discoveries  
doctrines  
duties

elements  
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exchanges  
exhortations  
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experiences  
expressions

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fundamentals  
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gains  
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graces  
grades  
groups

habits  
handicaps  
hopes  
hungers

ideas  
imperatives  
implications  
impressions  
improvements  
impulses  
incentives  
indictments  
inferences  
insights  
inspirations  
instructions  
intimations  
invitations

joys  
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justifications

kinds  
  
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